

2022 Dallas County Candidate Questionnaire

John F Warren
County Clerk

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.

As county clerk, I was successful in preparing for and issuing marriage license resulting from landmark Obergefell v. Hodges decision by the US Supreme Court. This was done in spite of the Texas Attorney General's resistance and attempted control the outcome of the decision.

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 supported the policies and platform of the Texas Democratic Party. I have been and continue to vote in democratic primaries.

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

I have served as the county clerk for the past fifteen years. Prior to that, I served as a court administrator, court manager and system administrator for both county and district courts. I have also served as a court administrator in the federal courts for the Northern District of Texas as well as a paralegal for the US Department of Justice. I have over 30 years of decision making and leadership experience in the court system.

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

responsibilities?

My plans are to continue to automate the court system in Dallas, the implementation of the case management system for the criminal courts, expand property fraud alert system, develop efficiencies that further enhance in court processes to save tax dollars.

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

I will showcase my endorsement by Stonewall on both campaign literature as well as my campaign website.

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

I currently have a workforce that included LGBTQ employees. I have office policies that speaks to and inclusion, fairness, diversity and non-discriminator practices.

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

Yes, I currently have a staff member dedicated to community outreach and engagement.

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, this is already part of my office policies/employee handbook and management handbook.

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, along with my staff has and will continue to follow the laws and statutes that govern the duties of the county clerk. I have a zero-tolerance policy regarding following those laws and statutes.

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?

Not currently a member, but will be joining.

2022 Dallas County Candidate Questionnaire

Ann Cruz

Dallas County Clerk

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.

My superhero daughter is lesbian.

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 worked in Dallas County for 35 years. I worked my way through the ranks of the County Clerks office for 21 years before I became the Court Coordinator for CCC6 and I am currently Court Coordinator for CCAP2.

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

Promote a stronger work ethic that is lead by example. Bring consistency to all the departments. See the County Clerks Office ran with teamwork, transparency and efficiency so to create a great customer service experience for all that we are here to serve.

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

I would include the endorsement on my website as well as my campaign materials.

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

I will have an inclusive environment for everyone.

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

I would love to look into having officers/members of Stonewall as liaisons

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?

I will enforce all rules for a non-discrimination policy for all that apply or all hired in the office.

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”?

All duties need to be performed.

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?

3 months

2022 Dallas County Candidate Questionnaire

Marcus Turner Jr.

Dallas County Clerk

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.

Seeing game changing legislation passed which included the needs of the LGBTQ community. Legislation like Executive Order 11246 first signed by LBJ and then amended by President Obama adding sexual orientation and gender identity to the bill prohibiting discrimination allows us as Americans to draw closer to that more perfect union. Inclusion is priority and being able to actively listen and serve these communities that you may not belong to is something I feel passionate about as a leader.

Communities like the LGBTQ community have historically been discriminated against in almost all facets of life. We still have cases in 2021 where people identifying in this group are drawn out, discriminated against. We as a people should work hard and continue to support efforts that extend rights of hospital visits, child custody, adoption, parenting rights, medical-decision power, automatic inheritance, divorce protection, spousal and child support, and domestic violence protections. Common-sense solutions to ensure equality, access, and a seat at any table is just and due for communities that have been historically discriminated against. The LGBTQ community will have a County Clerk in me that includes, calls on, and invites the LGBTQ community to be present and apart of the transformative work and events held by our office and me exclusively.

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 demonstrated an affiliation with the Democratic Party. I'm 33 years old and since the age of 18 I have voted Democrat and aligned with the values, platform, and policies of the Texas Democratic Party.

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

I have spent my entire career at Dallas County serving the People, Judges, Attorneys and Pro se litigants. My experience in the Court includes working in departments in the Lew Sterrett Jail Magistrate Court as a Deputy Clerk. I have also worked in every possible family court which are housed in 4 pods located in the George Allen Courts Bldg which normally include 3 District courts to a pod. I also have experience working in the Pearl Smith Filing Room as a Civil File Desk Deputy Intake Clerk. These experiences working with various judges, attorneys, and citizens in Dallas County has shaped my perspective of where our areas of opportunities are as public servants are.

I received a Bachelor of Business Administration/ Minor in Business Management from Jarvis Christian College in Hawkins, Texas. I received two Certificates from Harvard University Online School in "Justice", and "Citizens and Politics" and one certificate from Catalyst X "How to Become a Successful Leader". I am currently enrolled in Graduate studies at the University of North Texas at Dallas concerning Public Leadership. I'm committed to serving Dallas County at the highest and most efficient and effective ways possible.

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

In public service especially government bodies the constituents are to measure the public value. We want Dallas County Clerk's Office to be a leader in the nation on what innovation and access, inclusion, competence and public service should be at a County Level. Below is an analysis on what the Dallas County Clerk's Office would look like with Marcus Turner Jr as the County Clerk.

Opportunities- The County Clerk's strengths under my regime are

we will provide first class access and materials the constituents, attorneys, and Judge's as it pertains to satisfying the need to access justice. We also will have second to none service as it relates to the customer service experience at any of our offices regarding the issuances of death certificates, marriage licenses, and any type of licensing that are obtained through our offices. We understand the need for and importance of records and documentation in everyday life, so our commitment is to reducing time periods within our power to deliver the needs and goods to the constituents as it applies in their unique circumstances.

I plan on actively encouraging and promoting public engagement in governance and being respectful to person in their dealings with our public entity. A great example would be committing to being open and transparent while at the same time protecting privacy rights and security. I want to commit to involve the stakeholders in the process of development, implementation and assessment of policies and public programs. Also, I want to create game changing solutions on keeping the public informed by having bi-weekly Q&A's with citizens, nonprofits, and public officials live on social media platforms. Promoting timely processing and dissemination of information.

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

If endorsed by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas to be the next Dallas County Clerk, I would include this endorsement on my campaign media and include it on my website. It would be an honor to be endorsed by such a dynamic group like the Stonewall Democrats.

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

Dallas County is an equal opportunity employer. I want my office in particular to be inclusive and representative of all communities. My vision is for the Dallas County Clerk's Office to be the most inclusive, customer service orientated and innovative Department in Dallas County. Once I swear into office, I will meet with all of my employees and conduct surveys, also take a look at how my

offices are constructed and see our areas of opportunities and access information to see if we have the representation of all communities in offices. If we don't, I am proposing task force to solve problems in the Clerk's Office and fulfill the customer service positions when we do away with the automated phone system. This way we can ensure representation is in our office and at the table and not just hidden in a policy.

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

Yes, I envision this as a part of my community outreach board I will implement in my office. I will have a board of people coming together and doing outreach and creating solutions for problems we can solve in various communities. My plan is to have an appointed liaison that represents the LGBTQ community along with other representatives working together to create solutions and support causes in various groups and communities.

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, Dallas County policy prohibits discrimination against individuals regarding their race, color, creed, gender, or sexual orientation. Our goals are for everyone who encounters our County Clerk's Office feels served and enjoys their experience. We will review the current Dallas County policy, review it as it pertains to this question, speak with LGBTQ groups and our liaison to ensure the policy is updated or make a more innovative policy to adapt in our office.

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"?

We want to protect the rights of all employees and allow them to observe their religious practices. Adaptive Leadership is required in these situations so the Clerk's Office will not fall short in any type of ways. The situation would need to be reviewed and discussed with the employee, administration, and management team. Depending on the nature of the "lawful work duty" and the "deeply held religious belief" we would probably have to seek

the opinion of Civil DAs about solution to these issues in order to resolve the situation.

County Commissioner Candidates

In light of decreased federal and state funding, how would you lead or support funding for HIV prevention in Dallas County including access to PrEP?

In Dallas County we have Health and Human Service HIV grants division. I would be willing to meet with them and support nay additional funding for HIV prevention in Dallas. Also continue to support the advocates for HIV prevention, and testing. I would educate myself on PREP, and ask professionals in HHS how we can help spread the message as a government entity.

What would you do to support and assist the many people with mental illness who must rely on the public system for care in or out of incarceration?

I would support the actions and strides the professionals, the city, and county are making to correct these issues. This being an important community issue must be brought to light so people can become more informed about it. I don't see information like this on Dallas County Clerks website, or social media accounts. The best way is to support initiative and post informative information that support the causes of mental illness and inform the public of the issues surrounding life for mental illness patients and the people who care for them.

How would you address the issues of non-Dallas County Residents using Parkland?

Access to medical care is a top priority in the United States of America and Dallas County. Parkland hospital because of their rules accept patients who may not have insurance or quality insurance. We obviously want this hospital available to Dallas County residence, but to save a life if you have an extra bed a question of where you live is not relevant. If we have the space, and the resources, we can be the leader and example for a nation devastated by this Pandemic.

How would you rate the County's Response to COVID?

First, I want to say regarding the times of crisis we all have endured as Americans and more specifically Texans during these last two years have tested us in ways unimaginable. Both national crisis like the novel Covid-19 Pandemic, and state crisis like the historic power outages last winter forced us to examine our leadership as constituents, and from a leadership perspective crisis provides a unique opportunity for true leadership to unfold when we need it the most.

Emergencies and crisis for leadership are opportunities to respond. Dallas County had to respond like all counties to the only pandemic most of us have seen in our lifetimes. I like the Counties effort to get the information out and try and keep communities safe. As long as we stay informed, continue to improve and keep large testing sites available we can improve our COVID Response each time.

In your opinion, what needed to happen in the past redistricting cycle?

Fair maps to ensure people may feel represented and also have a chance to have their voices heard is what should happen. We don't need gerrymandered maps to be drawn because we want to have power over people, or loop people out. We want fair maps that can get people representation to champion the needs of their communities.

How can the county play a part in expanding voting rights and access, including voting centers and extended hours?

Continuing the spread of information about voters right and access at the polls will help. Posting this information in heavily traffic areas in public and online will certain help this as well. Including voting centers and extended hours is something we can continue to push for and ultimately, I will be the voice or support system where I'm needed. I'm willing to speak out and advocate from my position about these issues. I have done work to register voters CO-Founding the 2020 "Pull up and Vote" event in East Dallas encouraging people to come register to vote, gain information and meet elected officials.

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?

Well during the pandemic, being the lead of the NAACP Legal Redress Team partnered with the Dallas County Eviction Advocacy Center, Justice of the Peace Sasha Moreno and Mike Jones and other resources to bring the community expert advice and eviction resources both for the tenant and landlord. This forum aloud for guest to come in and ask question directly to judges who rule on cases as well as offered them free legal advice from attorneys and free representative from attorneys dealing with Eviction.

In office, I would do the same and include more resources and partner with more public officials, and non-profits to bring the community the resources they deserve. Public service is measured by the public, and service is what I want involved in the County Clerk's Office foundation.

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 can pledge to join before the endorsement screening. I didn't want to join to strictly be able to vote. If I join I wanted it to be sincere and about solution, and how I can help the cause.

2022 Texas Candidate Questionnaire

Angel Luis Vega Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

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.

One significant experience I can share, was during my time working for the Mission Economic Development Agency in San Francisco, California. I had the opportunity of partnering with El/La Para TransLatinas of San Francisco. It was a privilege and honor to work teaching and developing Trans Latinas members in soft skills like personal finance, career development, personal development, interview preparation, and others to become more successful in their personal and professional lives. The complete program consisted of one year.

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?

Absolutely, I'm a long life proud Democrat.

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

I am a purpose-driven professional offering over 20 years in business strategy, finance/banking, operations, non-profit grassroots organizations, extensive experience managing processes, improving inefficiencies, managing large groups of people, and managing multimillion-dollar budgets. Serving on non-profits boards, working with people of all backgrounds, and volunteering in multiple political campaigns, from gubernatorial, congressional all the way to Obama's presidential campaign; it has been a vehicle for me to contribute, to give a voice, and stand

united. Recently, I served as Texas Deputy Field Director for Mi Familia Vota.

These experiences have prepared me with the tools and capabilities to succeed as Texas's next Comptroller. Having a diverse background provides me with a better understanding and managing well others' needs. I have the grassroots experience to understand what our community needs.

I am, by nature, very transparent; I like to be very bold and open in my approach because I appreciate truth and transparency. People and processes work better when they know what is ahead and have the complete picture to better deal with as well as manage the variables. This is very particular of me; as a leader, I like to equip and prepare others to be and do the best they can. I also completed a Bachelor's and Master's in Business Administration.

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

I would focus on transparency, accountability, efficiency, optimizing the office's capabilities, boosting entrepreneurship, attracting new business opportunities, thriving jobs, and reducing unemployment under 3%. Guarantee retirement security & protect pensions. I will make decisions in the interest of all the people of Texas, not the special interest group. I want the agency to be more inclusive and diverse; I want to celebrate and embrace inclusiveness and diversity. I also want to serve as a model to other Texas agencies to follow our inclusive & diversity programs and accomplishments.

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

Absolutely, I would add an endorsement to the campaign's website www.angelvega.com, social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and make a statewide press release).

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

The Comptroller's office counts with about three thousand employees, I would embrace the office as an LGBTQ friendly place to work and focus the recruitment to become more inclusive, diverse, and friendly to all. And as a part of the staff that I can recruit, I absolutely want to provide a friendly environment for the LGBTQ community and I welcome the opportunity to recruit personnel and direct staff that are a part 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?

Absolutely, this is a wonderful idea.

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?

The office of the Comptroller has a strong influence across the state. I absolutely will support and personally advocate for it. I also support the Every Child Deserves a Family Act.

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. We need to guarantee students can attend school without fear of bullying, harassment or discrimination.

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

Yes, Love is Love, people need to have the right to marry who they love regardless of their sexual orientation.

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 is unacceptable and discriminatory. As Texas's next Comptroller, I will publicly advocate and support the LGBTQ community, including transgender student-athletes ability to participate in the sport they identify.

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 will advocate and publicly support the elimination of this law. It is unbelievable that instead of moving forward, we go backwards. These restrictions are a huge mistake; unsafe abortions will rise, and it's no secret that most take place in un-sanitized, unsafe settings and without the proper counseling. Women's physical and mental health will be at risk and inevitably deteriorate, creating a state crisis.

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?

As a Comptroller, I will boost the Texas Economy and Jobs Creation. To do that, here is my proposal:

- Support the increase the minimum wage to \$15 ASAP, \$20.00 p/h by 2030, and \$25.00 p/h by 2035.
- Establish a special incentive for businesses that hire veterans, military spouses, the LGTBQ community, and people with disabilities.
- Legalize recreational marijuana
- Maximize the infrastructure opportunities: (Be proactive and diligent in enhancing, re-building, and expanding roads, bridges, and buildings. Improve transportation capabilities.)
- Incentivize first-time homeowners, first 3-5 years tax break.
- Get rid of / Eradicate corporate tax loopholes.

For small business owners & entrepreneurs

- Reduce taxes for small businesses.

- Design and provide training, tools, and resources to small businesses to boost growth.

Establish alliances with non-profit organizations like local Chambers of Commerce, local Universities that focus on improving their economic empowerment and development of the district.

- Rural Texas: (Assign a 250 million dollars grant program to give farmers the opportunity to establish or expand their businesses.)
- LGTBQ owned businesses initiative: (Assign a 500 million dollars grant program to the LGTBQ community with an entrepreneurial vision that wants to start or expand their business ventures.)
- Woman-owned business initiative: (I support establishing a 500 million dollar grant program for women with an entrepreneurial vision that wants to start or expand their business ventures.)
- Establish a 5-year tax exemption plan for new women-owned business ventures.

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 need to protect and improve the Affordable Care Act; I believe and support Medicare for All.

- I believe that proper nutrition improves the chances of longer life and reduces the risk of diseases; for that reason, I support more and better education on nutrition.
- I support funding for research on Heart diseases, Cancer, Alzheimer's, Diabetes, and Autism.
- We need to regulate and reduce the cost of prescriptions.
- Medical treatments can't be a luxury, much less a bankruptcy path, we need to establish legislation to prevent the skyrocketing costs of treatments.
- I believe in canceling the enrollment period and maintaining enrollment open all year

Hold accountable big pharmaceutical companies, executives.

- Mental Healthcare: Make available effective prevention treatments, and recovery services available to all.

- I support increasing investments in video health/telehealth

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

Gov. Abbott has failed again in our Texas communities. We need to solve the power grid issues immediately. I support the use and assignment from the Rainy Day Fund available to attend and support families still impacted by the 2021 winter storm.

It is time to move forward, be proactive, and take care of our environment.

I support Zero-carbon pollution:

- all government buildings by 2040
- all new residential and commercial buildings by 2040
- all new passenger vehicles, trucks, and buses by 2035
- all new passenger vehicles, trucks, and buses by 2045
- Build a massive national network of electronic vehicle supercharger stations.
- Invest and maximize our renewable energy capabilities
- Stop offshore drilling
- Protect our environment, community, state parks, lakes, and beaches
- Protect the ocean's habitat
- Expand marine protected areas
- Establish a nationwide recycling initiative

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

As Comptroller I will lead the organization with transparency. I have the opportunity to present recommendations on how the Texas budget can be effectively used. I strongly believe that this needs to be a priority.

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

This is a dangerous practice, I strongly support banning any reparative/conversion therapy everywhere.

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

I believe that it is crucial to create a new immigration reform with common-sense solutions, recognizing that many people, for years, came to this nation looking for new beginnings, opportunities and to work hard.

I strongly support establishing a path to citizenship for the hardworking individuals that have been in the country for years. Reduce in half the cost of citizenship applications fees. Eliminate 100% of the fee for application for those that asked for asylum and humanitarian protection. Grant asylum and humanitarian protections to those that came from countries with dictators.

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

We need to start giving every Texan access to high-quality health care, for that reason I believe in Medicare for all, increasing the provider capacity across the state, ensuring federal funding is correctly allocated and using them as assigned. Keep workers on payroll and use the rainy day fund to support working families impacted by the pandemic. Place an immediate moratorium on evictions and foreclosures. Make the covid vaccine mandatory in government facilities and schools.

Preparing for future pandemics, I believe that we need to expand the community health care centers, expand unemployment insurance and build an emergency shelter. We should increase the rainy day fund to 25 billion & allocate \$1.75 to \$2billion annually. The primary purpose of these funds should be for natural

disasters and recession, to support our communities, support people keeping their homes, adequately fund our schools, support any healthcare crisis, provide food assistance and guarantee public safety.

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 support Zero-carbon pollution:

- all government buildings by 2040
- all new residential and commercial buildings by 2040
- all new passenger vehicles, trucks, and buses by 2035
- all new passenger vehicles, trucks, and buses by 2045
- Build a massive national network of electronic vehicle supercharger stations.
- Invest and maximize our renewable energy capabilities
- Stop offshore drilling
- Protect our environment, community, state parks, lakes, and beaches
- Protect the ocean's habitat
- Expand marine protected areas
- Establish a nationwide recycling initiative

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

Protect all citizens voting rights and harassment by establishing comprehensive legislation that prevents voting suppression. I believe we need to establish an automatic enrollment process for

US citizens when they reach the voting age. We need to make election day a holiday, overturn Citizens United, eliminate super PACs and private corporate funding.

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

It is unacceptable that Texas Republicans once again segregate our community.

I'm running for a statewide race, in my case what impacts my changes will be the voter suppression created by Republicans. In the cases for races with the district, we need to establish an independent and non-partisan committee to take ownership of the next redistricting happening in 2031. But we can not wait 10 more years, we need to continue our fight in courts to guarantee the right to proper representation 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?

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?

I'm not a current member, and I welcome the opportunity to become a member.

2022 Texas Candidate Questionnaire

Tim Mahoney Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

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.

It is safe to say that I have supported such issues for decades; I have a cousin who is gay, and I really never thought that he was anything but deserving of basic rights and respect.

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 affirm and affiliation with the platform and policies of the Texas Democratic Party, and I have always voted Democratic.

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

I was trained as a journalist in the 1970's (won a number of awards writing for the Texas Observer), went to the LBJ School of Public Affairs (UT-Austin) in the 1980's, then to Law School. I have been a practicing attorney since 1992. I have become increasingly appalled at what passes for public policy every two years at the Texas Legislature and in between by our Statewide elected officials. If we can't find a new way of relating to each other, I'm not sure our future will be of any real value to our children.

One of the first studies that I have participated in since this Campaign started is understanding that when we redistrict, we need to have compact districts. Texans have long demanded that their counties be compact. From before the Republic to modern times, counties were constitutionally required to be between 700 and 900 square miles so farmers could travel to the county seat

and back again in one day to properly exercise their franchise. Texas congressional, senate and house districts in 2011, and in 2021, were developed through a hidden process where we had no clue where the sausage came from, let alone how it was made. If we make healthy compact electoral districts, that will go a long way towards better public policy.

In addition, I will commit to on-going studies of our Texas budget process, and program evaluations, so that people can begin to see our government becoming transparent and worthy of our trust. The new Comptroller should revamp the 12 Regions currently used into Regions that make sense. There is no explanation why Comptroller Hegar uses the current Regions. New Regions should be developed so information from the Comptroller's office can be utilized to build communities that are healthy, rather than to enrich those that are already wealthy.

I have been involved in Democratic politics since the early 1980s, in both statewide races and local politics. I was elected to a 6-year term as an Austin Community College Trustee in 2008. I ran for Comptroller in 2018, and ran a novel social media campaign, where I came within 4 percentage points of prevailing in the Democratic Primary. I have maintained my interest in State politics, and before I filed to run this year, I testified before the House Redistricting Committee and told them that "as this Redistricting effort unfolds, I have little doubt that the redistricting effort will be about domination with the intention to create more "zig-zag" districts. Of little concern will be how much this pre-ordained process may hurt Texans. Instead of dividing a county into like six different senatorial districts, or 6 different federal representative electoral districts, as has been done in Texas, we could have districts that enhance communities of interest in a more compact geographic fashion. Compact communities might elect leaders who will work together to heal the vestiges of unfair domination that have plagued Texas for hundreds of years."

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

The Number One problem is not so much our failure to develop

a fair process for compact congressional, senate, house, and educational districts, it's our failure to develop on-going regional relationships that would foster a fair process for redistricting. That's the way that I hope to run my campaign, by building on providing tools for regional collaborations, taking that to the general elections in November, then continuing that effort after the elections for a new sense of regional collaborations rather than regional divisiveness. By turning civil conversations into civil combat, we can't see how that has made our public programs benefit those with the financial resources to dominate the rest of us. And for those that are able to dominate the rest of us, they can't see how that is a losing sum game when they end up with no markets to ensure their continued wealth.

For almost all of State government, there is almost nowhere to go, but up. Yes, I plan to streamline the office, and use technology to serve citizens more quickly, efficiently and effectively. As for the communication with constituents, if I'm elected it will be in part because I find a way to empower citizen collaborations to get me elected. Then I'm sure that I would continue that effort when elected.

We need to understand that the Texas Comptroller is the largest public data center in Texas, and as such, should begin to produce this information in a form that enhances every region in Texas. If we understand that there is more power in collaboration than in division, we can begin to build a Texas government that belongs to all Texans.

Like Texas counties, which are constitutionally compact, we should have a Redistricting Commission process that ensures compact congressional, house, senate and educational districts. This is essential for producing healthy governmental institutions in Austin.

Texas should have an educational system that is affordable, accessible, and transparent to all Texas children and adults, and this can be done by making clear the monies that are spent for education, and the quality of that education.

Texas should have an economy that is open to all citizens, and for the benefit of all Texans, utilizing the data that is the Texas

Comptroller's office, and Texas should have an open budget process that is public, open and transparent, with budget studies that demonstrate the efficacy and efficiency of Texas programs.

Texans should be respected in their workplaces, whether public or private, with the understanding that a business that takes into account the talents of its employees is a better workplace; and

The successes of one Texas region should be available to another region so that we can all learn and prosper, with regional organizations that have the capacity to digest economic data of the past and present, with the capacity to project that information into a better future 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 be honored being endorsed by the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas, and I would include the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas in my campaign media and on my website.

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

I would approve guidelines for getting a representative population as a part of the Comptroller's workforce (about 10,000 people). Such guidelines would certainly include maintaining an appropriate environment for all employees, including LGBTQ individuals.

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 would be supportative of allowing LGBTQ individuals to be involved in adoption and foster care. I believe not allowing such individuals to be involved in adoption and foster care has negative consequences on the cost of the child case system in Texas, and I would certainly be willing to consider the budget consequences of not allowing LGBTQ individuals to be involved in adoptions and foster care.

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

Yes. I would support the repeal of the sodomy law which is still in the Texas statutes in spite for the ruling from the US Supreme Court.

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.

It is not really applicable to the Comptroller's office, but I do not support the 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?

Not really applicable, but I certainly do not support S.B. 8.

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?

This is at the heart of why I'm running. I was trained as a journalist in the 1970's (won a number of awards writing for the Texas Observer), went to the LBJ School of Public Affairs (UT-Austin) in the 1980's, then to Law School. I have been a practicing attorney since 1992. I have become increasingly appalled at what passes

for public policy every two years at the Texas Legislature and in between by our Statewide elected officials. If we can't find a new way of relating to each other, I'm not sure our future will be of any real value to our children.

One of the first studies that I have participated in since this Campaign started is understanding that when we redistrict, we need to have compact districts. Texans have long demanded that their counties be compact. From before the Republic to modern times, counties were constitutionally required to be between 700 and 900 square miles so farmers could travel to the county seat and back again in one day to properly exercise their franchise. Texas congressional, senate and house districts in 2011, and in 2021, were developed through a hidden process where we had no clue where the sausage came from, let alone how it was made. If we make healthy compact electoral districts, that will go a long way towards better public policy.

In addition, I will commit to on-going studies of our Texas budget process, and program evaluations, so that people can begin to see our government becoming transparent and worthy of our trust. The new Comptroller should revamp the 12 Regions currently used into Regions that make sense. There is no explanation why Comptroller Hegar uses the current Regions. New Regions should be developed so information from the Comptroller's office can be utilized to build communities that are healthy, rather than to enrich those that are already wealthy.

We need to understand that the Texas Comptroller is the largest public data center in Texas, and as such, should begin to produce this information in a transparent form that enhances every region in Texas. If we understand that there is more power in collaboration than in division, we can begin to build a Texas government that belongs to all Texans. Texas should have an economy that is open to all citizens, and for the benefit of all Texans, utilizing the data that is the Texas Comptroller's office, and Texas should have an open budget process that is public, accessible and transparent, with budget studies that demonstrate the efficacy and efficiency of Texas programs. Texas officials have played a game of hide and seek regarding tax revenues and the adequate funding of state government for decades,

especially including public schools. We need to break out of the secret codes and share information with our fellow Texans. It is not by accident that citizens access to healthcare, education, and social services has diminished over the years. Making some sort of division between local and State taxes, when they are all paid for by Texas residents, is the worst of mean-spirited tricks. I would attempt to have less of a guessing game regarding State income certification during legislative sessions, and begin to build a matrix of what part of the Texas population has the real tax burden.

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?

Especially in this time of the pandemic, it seems particularly obvious that if everyone had access to adequate healthcare, we would all be healthier. We are just figuring out that regarding the world's access to healthcare, it is the areas that have the least access to vaccines that have been the source of the new variants. I just don't understand why people would want to make other people's health the consequence of competition; if you or your children can't afford medicine, then tough. On a practical and ethical basis, we should all have access to good healthcare. Everyone should have access to healthcare, and I imagine that there would be a budget study regarding that and related issues.

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

We could also have a study about the State of Texas' failure to ensure access to all Texans of a predictable, safe, and reliable power generation system. We could be funding solar generation on peoples' homes as a part of our new generation planning. We should stop acting like the proverbial animal with its head in the fossil fuel oil patch, and get ready for the new world order. This is not rocket science, and I believe that this kind of message will sell in every region in Texas. The people who vote, the people at the bottom, now have enough experience to know that the current Texas Power Grid is not something that is sustainable or for them.

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 believe that this would be part of another study regarding access to healthcare where numbers would not lie.

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

I don't know that it would be applicable to the office, except as part of healthcare analysis. As someone who has worked with therapists professionally and personally, one of the other areas that I think is important is what kind of therapy are we going to be utilizing for getting children of the pandemic back in school, back in their normal socialization development. I think that this might well be a good time to get the different healing professions to come together, and vision what it might look like for health and psychological therapies to be advocated for children, not only now, but for lifetime mental and physical health. I think that it could be sold to parents if introduced properly.

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

*There was a 2006 Study that the Comptroller's office did on the impact of undocumented immigrants in Texas that found that they provided more in tax revenue than they cost the State of Texas (may have been less true for local governments). Comptroller Hegar said when he was first running for office 8 years ago that he thought that the study should be updated, but it never was. In 2017, SB 764 was considered by the Texas Senate Committee on Finance, another effort at getting an update on the 2006 analysis, but it too did not pass. I think that the 2006 by Republican Comptroller Susan Combs should be updated.

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

Universal healthcare and getting vaccines out to all regions of the world so we don't have new variants that develop (like in India and South Africa) because the populations do not have access to vaccines. Maybe even defeat the Republicans in November, but those anti-vac populations will still exist, but we need to defeat

them with community love. I don't know how it will manifest, but we have to come to terms with it. Almost everyone has family members who are part of the anti-vac syndrome, so it needs to be handled with firm kid gloves.

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 are surrounded by the political effects of climate change: mass immigration of dispossessed populations, driven away by war and loss of habitat, and environmental degradation. I believe that in order to really get climate change under control, we must do it at the local level, reaching out for common ground to like-minded communities everywhere, because it has really been the centralized marketing that has made climate change possible, and those forces do not mind if they have to live in gated communities as the rest of us deal with the climate change wake up calls.

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

I will advocate that our district lines be redrawn in 2023 with the new legislature that is elected on a sustained drive for compact districts, just like our Texas counties have been since before the Texas Republic. Voter suppression is just another example of what comes out of dysfunctional districts. The voter suppression laws should be overturned in 2023. I'm sure that an engaged Comptroller's office can provide factual information about the negative impact voter suppression laws will have had on voter behavior, and that is what it was intended to do. Somehow, we have to negate that impact by not succumbing to the negative reactions that the promoters of voter suppression laws have intended, a cure for a non-existent disease.

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

The Comptroller should have utilized research demonstrating that the premises for the secret redistricting plan should have been made public, and that compact districts make for better representation.

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 always attempted to do the right thing, with the information that I had at hand.

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?

If you would have me as a member, I would be proud to join.

2022 Texas Candidate Questionnaire

Janet Dudding
Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

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 seen the struggles of the LGBTQ+ community over the course of my adult life. Even though I am not part of the community, I have been called, and consider myself an ally. I have been inspired by the progress we've made as a society towards equality for the LGBTQ+ community, but know there is much work left to do. I have been advocating for equal rights and protections for the community and will continue that work. There are approximately 930,000 LGBTQ Texans, according to the 2019 Texas State of Equality Report. Each deserves full rights, safety, and equality. I will do all I can to ensure that we achieve these goals.

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, and have always been a Democrat and have actively supported candidates that are Democratic and support LGBTQ+ rights. I support the platform and policies of the TDP.

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

As a certified public accountant, I've spent my adult life auditing, accounting for, administering and investigating state and local governments and their grants, taxes, procurement, spending and reporting. In other words - I understand how the system works and how we could better utilize it to our advantage.

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

Right now we're overpaying for services that don't offer any real benefits. We're paying \$100M MORE in state taxes to DENY comprehensive mental healthcare. We're letting our property taxes pick up the tab when indigent care becomes crisis care. We need to do better and spend smarter. Plain and simple.

When I look at the numbers, I see HUGE opportunity here in Texas. From healthcare to the environment, to creating jobs and new revenue streams - I'm qualified, care deeply, and ready to put in the work.

Texas needs a new tax revenue stream to reduce property tax, fund education, health (& mental health) care, and public safety. A growing number of states are seeing tax benefits of legalizing marijuana for medicinal and recreational use. If we move now on marijuana legalization, we can enact enabling legislation to fund these and/or other social programs. The key is stipulating what % of tax revenues fund which social program in the enabling legislation. If we wait too long, we may miss our window. The industry is mature enough to have established best practices, which should be incorporated.

Ensuring that public safety receives a portion of the tax revenue stream is important. With the new industry, public safety's focus shifts in regards to marijuana.

We will need a banking mechanism so that the business can operate within a banking system and not rely solely on cash.

Distributing licenses for the new businesses should formally consider which communities have been most harmed by the decades-long marijuana incarceration protocol and the resulting impact of felony marijuana convictions on housing, jobs and families.

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 receive the endorsement and support of the

Stonewall Democrats of Dallas. I would promote it on our social media accounts, send out press releases, and display it on my website and literature.

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

I am proud to have a gay man leading my campaign as my campaign manager. He has worked in campaigns for 14 years and has even worked to elect the first openly gay man elected to Congress as a freshman and the first openly gay governor elected in the country. When our campaign team expands, I will look to LGBTQ+ campaign resources like the Victory Institute to recruit LGBTQ+ campaign staff and will support my campaign manager in training and retaining our diverse staff. It's important that I hear from all staff members and will regularly engage in conversations with each staff member to ensure that they are treated well, are safe, and empowered.

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

I would absolutely be willing to appoint a liaison to meet with the LGBTQ+ community on an ongoing basis. LGBTQ+ community members are an important, and often overlooked, voice in our state. I want to change that.

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 - absolutely. We are working now on our employment documents and they will absolutely include protections for members of the LGBTQ+ community. We will do the same once I am elected as the next Comptroller of Public Accounts here in Texas.

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?

This is not applicable to my office, but I will be voting for candidates who would lead or support state legislation ensuring that LGBTQ+ couples can adopt children and provide foster care.

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

This is not applicable to my office, but I will be voting for candidates who would lead or support state legislation ensuring that we repeal the unconstitutional sodomy law.

C. Supporting safe schools for LGBTQ students?

This is not applicable to my office, but I will be voting for candidates who would lead or support state legislation ensuring that our schools are safe for LGBTQ+ students and faculty.

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

This is not applicable to my office, but I will be voting for candidates who would lead or support state legislation repealing 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.

This is not applicable to my office, but I hope that HB 25 is repealed and our trans-students are protected.

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?

This is not applicable to my office, but I support a repeal of SB8. It is unconstitutional and harms pregnant people in our state.

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 support legalizing cannabis and ensuring that the market is safe and regulated. That would create 40,000 new jobs and create \$500M a year in state revenue. We would also save money by not incarcerating people, disproportionately POC, for cannabis offenses. I would advocate that this be a new industry that prioritizes POC who have been disproportionately affected by the current cannabis laws.

I support raising the state minimum wage to at least \$15/hour to ensure that Texans do not have to work more than one job to be above the poverty line.

I want Texas to expand healthcare access to every person here. There are steps we can take now to ensure that more people in Texas have access to affordable, quality healthcare, including vision, dental, and mental healthcare.

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?

This is not directly applicable to my office but we must expand the Medicaid income eligibility ceiling for adult Texans from \$2,000 per year to ~\$16,000 a year for 10 cents on the dollar! Expand pregnancy coverage from 2 to 12 months after childbirth to improve the chances that Texan women will live to see their child grow up!

Let's eliminate barriers to health care and implement health education reform in the schools and in the communities! Texans deserve no less!

Covering adult Texans under Medicaid will help save our rural hospitals, too. It costs us 10 cents on the dollar. Why would anyone turn down that offer?

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

This is not applicable to my office, but we could start by investing in improvements to our power grid instead of spending it on vanity border walls. We also might consider requiring ERCOT board members to live in the State of Texas.

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

This is not applicable to my office, but we should ensure that every Texan has access to PrEP and contraceptives, as well as science-based sexual health education regardless of one's ability to pay for it.

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

It is not applicable to my office, but it conversion therapy for minors should be banned in our state, and universally. It is wildly harmful and horrific

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

It is not applicable to my office, but we must reform our immigration system within the state to protect DREAMers and ensure that we treat immigrants and refugees in a humane and expeditious manner.

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

We could start by electing more people who believe in science and would act accordingly. We need to advocate for vaccines, boosters, masking and social distancing. We must expand rapid, accurate testing across all areas of the state and impliment a better system of notifications for those who may have exposure 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?

I cannot vote for that legislation, but would support legislation that required mandatory sexual harassment and EEO trainings. I will implement them on my campaign and in my Office, once elected.

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

We need laws that provide for a healthy planet. As a Katrina survivor who's been married to a scientist for almost 30 years, Climate Change is very real and personal to me. We need to green the grid, electrify transportation and clean up existing industries. Together, we can still turn this around - and create good-paying jobs.

Wind turbine service jobs and solar installer jobs are two of the fastest growing jobs in the country. Both only require a high school diploma and pay a living wage of over \$40,000 per year.

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

It is not applicable to my office, but I support legislation that expands the franchise of the vote. I would support same-day voter registration, universal mail-in ballots, and other efforts to expand the vote and making it easier for Texans to vote.

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

Since a vast majority of the growth in Texas was a result of Texans of Colors, we should have made the new districts ones which are majority-POC. We should have also ensured that the districts are more competitive. I support the legal challenges to the current maps.

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?

I am a new member.

2022 Dallas County Candidate Questionnaire

Andre Turner

Justice of the Peace 5-1

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.

As a person of color, I respect and value the LGBTQ community on many important matters as I can relate as an African American male based on the areas of oppression and discrimination.

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 affirm my affiliation and commitment with the platform and policies of the Democratic Party. I am a proud life-long member of the Texas Democratic Party.

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

27 years with Dallas County Court Systems as a Probation Officers, with 20 of those years working with thief by check, domestic violence, assault family violence, domestic threats possession of marijuana. A Member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. having served the local Chapter as President and Vice President); Community Oversight Board Commission (Former Board Member Commission District 5); Judicial Nominating Commission for District 4; Former National Association for Black in Criminal Justice Board Member

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

One way is to get the community engaged and create a community task force to do a SWAT analysis of the community. This group will assist in creating a plan to advance the community based on the needs and wants of the community. This committee will represent the population of the community. Build a partnership with LGBTQ+ community organizations, LGBTQ+ businesses in the area, school leaders, church leaders, and other community leaders. Attend and participate in all culture activities celebrating the LGBTQ+ community.

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

I would post in my campaign information including social media, campaign mailers and website.

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

There is no plan to change personnel but to continue to work with the staff. I will take 90 days to review all aspects of the district before making any suggested or needed changes. I will work with and coach the staff that is in place to ensure proper alignment with the SWAT analysis that will assist in creating goals and objectives.

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

Yes. Members of the LGBTQ community will be a part of the task forces and I would have someone assigned to work directly with the community on its needs and wants.

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. It is important to have representation of the community in the office for employment. The employees in the office must and will represent the community the office serves.

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 will remain neutral in all situations and remind myself and subordinates that we are here to serve the community. Our office will support the needs of the community; we serve not matter of our religious beliefs.

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?

Our job is to continue to educate our community on resources available. Create a task force to also find funding that will assist in paying rent for the citizens. We would work with both the tenants and the renters to find those resource and work together to support what is needed in the 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 join in December 2021

2022 Dallas County Candidate Questionnaire

Sara Martinez

Justice of the Peace 5-1

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.

As an openly LGBT candidate, I have a personal interest in the needs of the LGBT community. I have been an LGBT advocate for over twenty years and have organized around Latino LGBT issues, anti-gay violence, marriage equality and many others. Despite gains made, our work is never done. We must continue advocating in all spaces.

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. All my votes are Democratic votes.

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

I am the current incumbent and have been JP for the last 7 years. Prior to my election, I was in private practice handling criminal, family and civil matters. Before private practice, I served as a Dallas County Public Defender in the misdemeanor division. Prior to my election, I handled legal cases from inception to trial. As a JP, I continue to educate myself on the nuances and changes in the law. In the past year and a half, I have taken over 120 hours of continuing education despite only needing to take 40 hours.

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

During my next term, my immediate goal is to begin providing services during night court to ensure that all constituents are able to attend court business. Another initiative is to begin education sessions at our community centers on the services the court provides and to educate the public on what types of cases can be heard by the Justice of the Peace. The plan is to continue to innovate and make access to the courthouse easier by using a mix of technology and superb front desk service.

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 on all print and electronic media.

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

Currently, all staff is LGBT friendly and is cognizant of the need to serve all people who walk through our doors regardless of race, gender, language ability, disability or sexual orientation. Currently, we have two LGBT staff members including myself. As a member of the LGBT community, I will always ensure that the office is inclusive for staff. With over 100 years of legal and court experience combined, staff at 5-1 is ready to address all challenges.

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 nor any current staff member do not hold any deeply held religious beliefs that would prevent us from fulfilling work duties.

Should the issue arise in the future, any responsibilities would be delegated to other staffers. I recognized the importance of religion in people's lives, but the work of the court must continue unencumbered.

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 ensured the process was fair and compassionate by advocating and securing a moratorium on evictions and writs of possession in Dallas County from March to August 2020. As presiding judge, I have continued to apply all available legal remedies to provide relief to those facing eviction as well as providing a workroom at the courthouse for Legal Aid of Northwest Texas and Dallas Eviction Advocacy Center to assist tenants with legal representation. Agencies providing rent relief funding have also been welcomed at JP 5-1. I am proud of the work we have done to protect the most vulnerable in Precinct 5 during this pandemic, and I am committed to continuing to do so.

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 am proud of the life I've lived and the efforts I've made to create change wherever I've been.

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've been a member of Stonewall Democrats since 2014.

2022 Dallas County Candidate Questionnaire

Bill Gipson

Constable Precinct 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.

As the current Constable for Dallas County PCT. 2. I make sure that myself and my follow deputies are equitable when executing our day to day operations in the community. We do not discriminate against anyone based upon their identity.

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 - Democrat

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

I am the current elected Constable for Dallas County PCT. 2. Previously I served in Dallas County DA office as a Senior Investigator in the Juvenile Division overseeing Felony and misdemeanor cases. Prior to that, I was a Deputy Sheriff for the Dallas County Sheriff Office for 12 years. I have a total of 24 years of continuous criminal justice and law enforcement service.

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

As the elected Constable some of our day to day operational duties consist of serving Forcible Entry Detainer (Evictions), Writ of Garnishment, Writ of Sequestration, Writ of Execution, Writ of Attachments, Protective Orders, Papers from the Attorney General Office (Child Custody Cases), Temporary Restraining Orders, and White Warrants (Mental Illness).

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

Yes, I will include the Stonewall Democrats Of Dallas endorsement within my campaign advertisement and social media.

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

I would implement employee resource groups for pride and allies.

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?

Dallas County policy prohibits discrimination against any individual regarding their race, color, creed, gender or sexual orientation and require our deputies and office staff to be abreast to this policy. We pride ourselves in fairness and inclusivity and aim to ensure all communities feel safe and protected within our office.

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”?

Title VII prohibits employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex and national origin. As a elected official that would be unconstitutional.

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?

We dedicated office space to Legal Aids of North Texas and Sharing Life Community Outreach to consult with tenants

and landlords to access the circumstance and provide the appropriate assistance and possibly prevent them from going through the eviction proceedings.

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?

estimated at 2 years

2022 Dallas County Candidate Questionnaire

Deanna Hammond

Constable Precinct 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.

In our society, prejudices and discrimination continue to exist. We are all biased for one reason or another. It is imperative however, that we continue to work together in order to eliminate those biases and preconceived notions of what LGBTQ life entails. To increase our knowledge, I would make it a priority to appoint a Deputy Liaison to work with community groups and community activists, such as Kirk Myers of Abounding Prosperity, Inc.

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 make the affirmation that I am a true blue Democrat, born and bred, and my voting record is 100% Democrat.

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

Deputy Constable, Smith County

Court Appointed Mediator

Former Deputy Constable, Tarrant County

Former Federal Police Officer, V.A.

Former Police Officer, City of Dallas

Former Counselor, Texas Can! Academy

Former Substitute Teacher, Dallas I.S.D

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

1. Keeping the community involved, informed and engaged

-If we want great things from our community, we have to educate and empower.

2. Eviction (During the pandemic, many renters didn't know about the moratorium)

-I plan to work closely with the JP's office to insure the information is accurate, going out in a timely manner, and being heard via multiple platforms.

3. Bridging the gap between law enforcement and the community (Building Trust)

-Creating a forum that facilitates conversations and learning between residents and police. Success depends on how we treat our communities and how citizens treat law enforcement

4. Engaging with our youth

-Creating positive interactions between law enforcement officers and students in schools and within the community.

-Creating internship programs; afterschool work programs, etc..

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

Yes, it would be published on my website, social media accounts and campaign literature/advertisement.

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

In order to achieve gender parity for the recruitment process, I will begin by supporting any current LGBTQ employees and improve diversity and inclusion efforts. The key to identifying LGBTQ talent is to build genuine relationships with individuals.

Openness, transparency, and respect will guide my office.

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

Absolutely! As stated above, that would be a top priority.

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, in today's environment, it is imperative that those protections are put in place so that anyone who is qualified, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, feels safe and protected, while they protect and serve the community at large.

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 a "double" minority, I have faced discrimination and hardships in law enforcement and that is a feeling I would not want anyone to face. We took an oath to uphold the law and protect, serve and respect the Constitutional rights of ALL persons. Under no circumstances will I permit subordinates to disregard the law by using his/her authority to promote discrimination.

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 mentioned this as one of my plans once I am elected, which is to work closely with the JP's office to insure any information coming from the CDC is accurate, going out in a timely manner, and being heard via multiple platforms, in an effort to reach everyone in the 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 am not a member but I pledge to join before the endorsement screenings.

2022 Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

Maria Aceves

192nd Civil 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.

I've always been an ally of the LGBTQ+ community. Starting in law school, I volunteered with Legal Hospice of Texas. Legal Hospice is a wonderful organization that has been providing timely and compassionate legal services, at no cost, to low income individuals with terminal illnesses or HIV disease. I've also walked in the Pride Parade previously with Judge Hoffman in support of the LGBTQ+ community. I believe it is of paramount importance to have someone on a civil district bench that is a staunch ally of the LGBTQ+ community especially since issues such as name changes and gender marker changes come before our civil district courts. If elected, I promise to treat everyone with dignity, respect and kindness that comes before the court.

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 platform and policies of the Texas Democratic Party. I have also previously voted as Democrat.

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

The office I am seeking is the 192nd Civil District Court, a civil court. I am a civil litigation attorney focusing on personal injury and civil guardian ad litem work. I have successfully litigated and resolved numerous cases for my clients at my own firm, Aceves

Law, PLLC. Prior to starting my own firm, I worked for several years at a prominent defense firm where I got significant trial and litigation experience. I then switched sides and practiced as a plaintiff's attorney at a well-known catastrophic injury firm. I also had the opportunity to intern and work for a civil district court in Dallas County, the same type of court that I am seeking in this election. Due to my experience and qualifications as a civil litigator, I have been selected four times in a row to the prestigious Super Lawyers Texas Rising Stars List (2019-2022). I have also been selected to the Top 40 Under 40 List by the National Trial Lawyers (2017-2021); the 10 Best Attorney List in Client Satisfaction by the American Institute of Personal Injury Attorneys (2018-2019); the 10 Best Female Personal Injury Attorney List by the American Institute of Personal Injury Attorneys (2019); the Top 10 Personal Injury Attorney List by Attorney and Practice Magazine (2019); the Top 10 Personal Injury Attorney Under Age 40 List by the National Academy of Personal Injury Attorneys (2019); and listed among the Top 100 Personal Injury Attorneys by America's Top 100 Personal Injury Attorneys (2020). I also recently found out that I was awarded Top Lawyers Under 40 by D Magazine for 2022.

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

The 192nd Civil District Court presides over civil matters ranging from personal injury cases to commercial litigation to residential litigation and business disputes. I have the civil litigation experience on both sides of the aisle that would make me a fair and impartial jurist if I have the opportunity to serve on this court. Due to my experience working with Judge Hoffman, I also plan to institute his "Foreclosure Fairness" program to address home equity foreclosures and give homeowners a voice in the process and a chance to keep their homes. Furthermore, due to Covid 19, our courts and dockets are backed up. As such, I plan to institute other innovative programs to help move the docket and make sure that everyone has an opportunity for their case to be heard promptly and efficiently.

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 honored to have the endorsement of the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas, and I would showcase my endorsement by including in my campaign material and media.

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

If elected, I would make sure to recruit, retain and create a friendly environment for LGBTQ and LGBTQ friendly staff. I would also make sure to treat all litigants that present before the court with dignity and respect and would ensure that the court staff also abided by those rules as well.

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 religious beliefs consist of treating everyone with dignity and respect regardless of who or where they come from. Being a judge is about fairness and equity for all. I would also make sure to that our LGBTQ+ community has access to my court for marriage ceremonies, name changes, gender marker changes, and any other proceeding that affects the LGBTQ+ community. If I had a subordinate that could not fulfill lawful work duties due to “deeply held religious beliefs” then they would not be able to work in my court due to being unable to fulfill their 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

Having my own firm has allowed to understand the importance of administrative matters and making sure to deal with them competently and efficiently. I am also very close to several civil district court judges and have had an opportunity to ask them what can be done to make administrative matters more competent and efficient in our judicial system. As such, I’ve been told that due to Covid 19, our courts and dockets are backed up. Therefore, I plan to institute innovative programs to help move the docket and make sure that everyone has an opportunity for

their case to be heard promptly and efficiently. This will include allowing litigants to attend certain hearings via teleconference or Zoom. This will also include making sure that my docket is organized in a way that is most efficient for hearings and trials so that all litigants have an opportunity to keep their cases moving.

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

I plan to institute innovative programs to help move the docket and make sure that everyone has an opportunity for their case to be heard promptly and efficiently. This will include allowing litigants to attend certain hearings via teleconference or Zoom. This will also include making sure that my docket is organized in a way that is most efficient for hearings and trials so that all litigants have an opportunity to keep their cases moving. I am also bilingual and speak fluent Spanish. As such, I hope to allow Spanish-speaking litigants the ability to come before the court and be heard. I also plan to translate court provided pamphlets and instructions in Spanish so that the litigants are able to understand the judicial process.

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?

As a trial lawyer having interacted with numerous juries, I do believe that the juries of Dallas County tend to reflect our community more so than other counties in Texas; however, I do believe there is still work to be done. Furthermore, it is important to note that jurors still bring their own implicit bias when deciding cases before them. As such, one of my mentors, Judge Tonya Parker, has been working on a groundbreaking implicit bias task force and instituting an implicit bias jury instruction to educate jurors on their own implicit biases. Her important work on this issue will help create a more equitable judicial system.

What is your general judicial philosophy?

Having worked for our one our civil district judges and having been before our other civil judges numerous times, my judicial philosophy is one of fairness, equity and respect. It is also about making sure that everyone has access to our courts and that justice is administered efficiently and competently.

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 believe so but I am always available for questions or follow-ups to make sure I address all questions and inquiries that your members may have.

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 in 2021 and have enjoyed getting to know the members of the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas and will continue to support this wonderful organization.

2022 Judicial Candidate Questionnaire

Tracie M. Shelby

192nd Civil 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.

From my childhood experiences, I decided early in life to become a strong advocate for the LGBTQ+ community. My biological father is a member of the LGBTQ+ community, and he struggled his entire life with being open with his sexuality. We lived in a society that permitted hatred and closed-mindedness towards the LGBTQ+ community.

My father and I were not allowed to enjoy each other as father and daughter due to his sexuality. My father carried shame and dealt with hatred daily. This experience impacted me tremendously and shaped who I am today. It also taught me compassion, understanding, concern, thoughtfulness, respect, open-mindedness, and love for everyone. It also gave me the want and desire to protect and serve the LGBTQ+ and underserved communities.

I am an advocate for equality, inclusion, and justice for all. My support for the LGBTQ+ community is not a choice, but it is my moral obligation. My support is deeply rooted in who I am. It is part of my moral obligation and responsibility as a child from an LGBTQ+ parent to protect all rights. The community needs groups like Stonewall Democrats of Dallas to fight for the LGBTQ+ and underserved community.

An endorsement from Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will give me the bridge I need to build trust in the LGBTQ+ community as a partner and for everyone to know that I will do everything in my

power to protect everyone's rights.

As a member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas and a child of an LGBTQ+ parent, this endorsement is important to me.

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 life-long Democrat, I bleed Democrat blue. I will always be a Democrat. Being is a Democrat is the only choice for me because the Democratic Party tries to protect all rights and has compassion for the less fortunate. I have always registered and voted 100% Democrat.

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

I am a licensed attorney with twenty-two (22) years of experience. I have successfully practiced civil law since 2011 in Dallas, Texas. I have handled a wide range of civil law experience, including but not limited to serving as lead counsel in jury and bench trials in state and federal courts.

I am the only candidate in this race who has vast experience in multiple areas of civil law, including but not limited to personal injury, medical malpractice, mortgage, real estate, foreclosure, construction, contracts, temporary injunctions, torts, bankruptcy, employment discrimination, wrongful termination, family cases, and defamation. I am the only candidate in this race who has experience as a law clerk to two federal district court judges.

I am the only candidate in this race with an MBA in Finance from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College and a Master of Laws in Securities and Financial Regulation from the Georgetown University Law Center. I am the only candidate in this race who has experience in Mergers and Acquisitions and Private Equity and who has experience in taking Real Estate Investment Trust Companies (REITs) from public to private and acquiring portfolios of real estate properties and mortgage loans.

Before opening my law firm eleven (11) years ago in Dallas, TX,

I served as Associate in Merchant Banking in Real Estate at The Walton Johnson Group, Inc. in Dallas, TX; Associate Director of Business Development in GE Capital's Mergers & Acquisition and Private Equity Group in Norwalk, CT; Assistant General Counsel at Sisters in Shape, Inc. in Philadelphia, PA; Law Clerk to the Honorable Petrese B. Tucker and Honorable Clifford Scott Green at the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, PA; and General Counsel for Intimate Battles, Inc. in Washington, D.C.

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

Once elected, my initial priority will be to create a program for Pro-se filers to have access, justice, equality, and due process in civil district courts. The program will be a monthly orientation to provide an overview of the civil litigation process, deadlines, motions, discovery, evidence, and trial. This program will empower every individual with the necessary tools to file a lawsuit in civil district court. This program will give everyone access to the court and help those who cannot afford a private attorney.

Over time, I would like to partner with different groups to hold civil district court seminars and educate the community about the court and available resources. My goal with this program is to alleviate the fear of the civil litigation process and empower the community with knowledge, information, and resources.

My mission as a judge will be to establish a Court that decides cases fairly and impartially, free of political and third-party intimidation; to establish a Court where justice is first; to establish a due process-driven court and establish a court where there is equality for all.

As a judge, I will continue to improve our judicial system by making it more efficient and ensuring justice is always the top priority.

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 Stonewall Democrats of Dallas'

endorsement on my website, all social media accounts, campaign literature, and any other advertisement.

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

After I am elected, all of my staff and non-staff (District Clerk and vendors) will respect everyone including the LGBTQ+ community.

My staff and non-staff assigned will know I have a zero-tolerance for disrespect or discrimination. I will be open to hiring potential staff from the LGBTQ+ community. I desire that my partnership with Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will provide me with the network to communicate to the LGBTQ+ community open positions.

I will work with the District Clerk and vendors to encourage everyone to find ways to ensure that the LGBTQ+ community and under-represented communities are notified of all open positions and encouraged to apply.

I believe that government and private sectors need the voice of all diverse communities including the LGBTQ+ community, as employees and decision-makers, to ensure access, justice, and equality for all.

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 a Court of justice and protector of rights, I will have a zero-tolerance policy for discrimination against anyone. I will have a zero-tolerance policy for my staff or subordinate of no disrespect, no hindrance or prevention of justice, and no disregard for the constitution, due process, and the law. The mission of my court will be to give access, justice, and equality to all.

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 important policies or procedures that I identified that need improvement is lawsuit filed by Pro-se filers.

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

As I stated in the above question regarding what are your plans specific to your office's responsibilities, I will create an orientation program for Pro-se filers and I will partner with different ethnic and civic groups to provide civil litigation seminars.

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, I do not believe the composition of juries adequately and fairly reflects Dallas County's Community. Some voters do not understand the importance of the role as jurors and find excuses not to serve on the jury. As part of my civil litigation seminar with ethnic and civic groups, I will educate on the importance of being a juror and serving on a jury and how it impacts the justice system if the juries do adequately and fairly reflect our community.

Lastly, some attorneys knowingly or unknowingly use biases to pick juries during their trial. As Judge, I will educate attorneys on the importance of having juries composed of and reflecting the community at large. I will allow attorneys or pro-se litigants to challenge peremptory challenges based on race, sex, ethnic group, sexuality, and religion. I will educate attorneys and pro-se litigants on the importance of Baston Challenges as a tool to use during jury selection in ensuring justice.

What is your general judicial philosophy?

My general judicial philosophy is all courts should provide access, justice, and equality for all.

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 not anything in my past or background that would cause your organization to reconsider or withdraw your endorsement of me.

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 Democrats of Dallas since 2021.

2022 Texas Candidate Questionnaire

Luis Miguel Sifuentes
Texas State Board of Education, District 11

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 am a proud gay man. I was married shortly after gay marriage became legal. I marched for our right to marry and advocated for politicians who shared that view.

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 democratic.

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

I am a former educator, husband and father with a graduate degree in management. I have always been passionate about education and I wish to continue serving the students, parents and educators of District 11.

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

As a former educator and social studies teacher, I became very familiar with the TEKS. As a general principle, curriculum and instructional material should be based on fact and inclusive of the good, the bad and the ugly. If elected I would work to make the SBOE acts as inclusive curators of history, ensuring that the identities of all students are included, not just the identities of a few.

How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of

Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media?

I would promote my endorsement and display it on my website and social media.

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

N/A since I won't have a staff.

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

Yes I would appoint a volunteer liaison or I would act as the liaison myself.

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

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?

Income inequality and poverty are issues that affect our students. I would work to ensure that every child has access to a high quality education regardless of their background or socio-economic status. I would work to ensure that schools have adequate funding, that our teachers are paid fairly, and that our students have the necessary materials to succeed.

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

When it comes to the losses caused by the pandemic in our schools, I would work give schools the appropriate resources so they can begin to close the gaps created by the pandemic. We know that students lost some gains during the pandemic so I would work hard to ensure we start to roll back those losses. I would also advocate resources to help our students cope with the mental health stressors caused by the pandemic. We need to

provide schools with resources to be able to assist students as they navigate the pandemic.

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

An independent panel should have created 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?

I am not a current member. I would pledge to join.