



February 23, 2012

Question 1	Do you wish to receive the endorsement of the Stonewall Democrats of Austin (SDA)?
District Attorney Rosemary Lehmborg	Yes. This endorsement is especially important to me.
State Representative Donna Howard	Yes.
 Chris Frandsen	Yes.
SBOE 5 Rebecca Bell-Metereau	Yes, I wish to receive endorsement of the Stonewall Democrats of Austin.
SBOE 10 Judy Jennings	Yes.

Question 2	Should you receive this endorsement, would you publicize our endorsement in your campaign advertisements and campaign literature?
District Attorney Rosemary Lehmborg	I will absolutely publicize the endorsement, just as I have done with my endorsement by the Victory Fund.
State Representative Donna Howard	Yes, I would include it on my campaign website where I list all the endorsements I receive.
 Chris Frandsen	Yes,
SBOE 5 Rebecca Bell-Metereau	Yes, I would use it in publicity and literature.
SBOE 10 Judy Jennings	Yes.

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Question 3	Please tell us why you are seeking the endorsement of SDA. Do you have a history of involvement in Democratic politics? If so please briefly describe this history.
District Attorney Rosemary Lehmborg	As an openly gay incumbent District Attorney, this endorsement has meaning over and above the other Democratic clubs. I am proud of my sexual orientation and I want to make sure that I model that pride for others – a model that I did not have as a young person or young professional.
State Representative Donna Howard	I have been endorsed in previous elections by the ALGPC, and I have also actively supported such issues as anti-bullying, inclusive hate crimes legislation, and equal rights for lesbian/gay couples and families.
Chris Frandsen	My brother was one of the original founders of NYC's Gay Men's Health Coalition and passed away in 1985 from AIDS. I have supported LGBT causes as a voting citizen since he came out in 1978. I was not politically active in any cause until the 2008 election.
SBOE 5 Rebecca Bell-Metereau	As the author of Hollywood Androgyny, which originally was published by Columbia University Press in 1983, second edition in 1993, I have long supported the equal rights of the gay, lesbian, and transgendered communities.
SBOE 10 Judy Jennings	While I am not (currently) opposed in the Democratic Primary, I would like to receive the support of every Democratic group making endorsements in uncontested races. Beyond that, I feel that we are in the same fight against bigotry and narrow mindedness.

Question 4	Why are you seeking this public office? (Please be brief)
District Attorney Rosemary Lehmborg	I am seeking re-election. I believe I have done a good job in my first three years. I am proud of my record because I believe I offer a very balanced approach to the job, seeking incarceration for those that commit violent crimes against victims and are a threat to society, but also seeking opportunities for individuals who want out of the cycle of criminal justice. I care equally about both.



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<p>State Representative</p>	
<p>Donna Howard</p>	<p>I have served as the representative for HD 48 for almost six years, and I want to continue to work for the community to provide responsible government, healthy families, and equal opportunities for all Texans.</p>
<p>Chris Frandsen</p>	<p>Education, education, and education. Education is the key to our future and to acceptance of all races, life style choices and religions. I want to restore lost funding to public schools and ensure that funding for education is not jeopardized in the future.</p>
<p>SBOE 5</p>	
<p>Rebecca Bell-Metereau</p>	<p>As a teacher for over 30 years at Texas State University, I am deeply committed to education, a strong curriculum, quality text books, and equal rights for education for all students in Texas.</p>
<p>SBOE 10</p>	
<p>Judy Jennings</p>	<p>I am running so that those who are appalled by the influence of the religious right on our State Board of Education will have a real choice no matter whom the Republicans nominate.</p>

<p>Question 5</p>	<p>Would you advocate for and support a State law that would prohibit employment discrimination against gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgendered individuals on the basis of sexual orientation, gender expression or gender identity?</p>
<p>District Attorney Rosemary Lehmborg</p>	<p>Absolutely.</p>
<p>State Representative Donna Howard</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>Chris Frandsen</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>SBOE 5</p>	
<p>Rebecca Bell-Metereau</p>	<p>Absolutely!</p>
<p>SBOE 10</p>	
<p>Judy Jennings</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

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<p>Question 6</p>	<p>Would you advocate for and support a State law that would prohibit discrimination against or harassment of gay, lesbian, bi-sexual or transgendered students or teachers in Texas public schools on the basis of their sexual orientation, gender expression or gender identity?</p>
<p>District Attorney Rosemary Lehmborg</p>	<p>Absolutely.</p>
<p>State Representative Donna Howard</p>	<p>Yes. I voted for HB 1942 that required school districts to adopt a policy addressing bullying and provided a framework for public schools to use when crafting and implementing the policy. The bill became law and took effect immediately.</p>
<p>Chris Frandsen</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>SBOE 5 Rebecca Bell-Metereau</p>	<p>Absolutely!</p>
<p>SBOE 10 Judy Jennings</p>	<p>Yes.</p>

<p>Question 7</p>	<p>Did you support or oppose (publicly and with your vote) the Proposition 2 on the November 2005 ballot that amended the Texas Constitution to prohibit same-sex marriage or "any legal status identical or similar to marriage."?</p>
<p>District Attorney Rosemary Lehmborg</p>	<p>I opposed this proposition, spoke against it when I could, and voted against it.</p>
<p>State Representative Donna Howard</p>	<p>I was not a member of the Legislature in 2005. As a private citizen, I voted against Proposition 2.</p>
<p>Chris Frandsen</p>	<p>I did not publically or privately support Proposition 2 and I would have voted against such an amendment as a public official.</p>
<p>SBOE 5 Rebecca Bell-Metereau</p>	<p>I opposed Proposition 2 publicly.</p>
<p>SBOE 10 Judy Jennings</p>	<p>Opposed.</p>

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<p>Question 8</p>	<p>Given the outcome of Prop. 2 in 2006, do you believe the Texas Constitution would allow a State law that would guarantee to gay, lesbian, bi-sexual or transgendered foster or adoptive parents (prospective or current) the same rights and protections afforded under current law to heterosexual foster or adoptive parents (prospective or current)? Would you advocate for and support such a state law?</p>
<p>District Attorney Rosemary Lehmborg</p> <p>State Representative Donna Howard</p> <p>Chris Frandsen</p> <p>SBOE 5 Rebecca Bell-Metereau</p> <p>SBOE 10 Judy Jennings</p>	<p>I think overturning this proposition will be difficult given the current legislature, but I believe it should be. The law is discriminatory and unconstitutional. Clearly, we need to continue to take this issue to the courts, as the courts are the most informed and have a history of enforcing civil rights.</p> <p>I am not a lawyer, but I do believe the Texas Constitution already affords lesbian, bi-sexual or transgendered foster or adoptive parents the same rights and protections as heterosexual foster/adoptive parents. Prop. 2 specifically dealt with marriage and civil unions and there is no requirement that a prospective or current adoptive/foster parent be married. If deemed necessary, I would support a state law affording all adoptive parents the same set of rights.</p> <p>I personally believe that "marriage" is a religious institution and the state has no standing in who should or should not marry. I believe that the "marriage license" is a document which the state uses to creating a legal relationship between two consenting partners and that gender, race or religion should play no part in determining who may be consenting partners. I would hope that the courts would find that way as well. If not I would support and advocate a law that removes consideration of gender, race and religion in determining who does or does not have parental rights.</p> <p>I would advocate a state law guaranteeing gay, lesbian, bi-sexual or transgendered foster or adoptive parents the same rights and protections afforded under the law to heterosexual foster or adoptive parents.</p> <p>Yes and yes.</p>



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<p>Question 9</p>	<p>Should the State of Texas provide the same benefits to the domestic partners of gay and lesbian State employees that it does to its married, employees? Does Prop. 2 constitutionally prevent domestic partnership benefits for public employees?</p>
<p>District Attorney Rosemary Lehmborg</p>	<p>The State should do so, as the City and County have done. I don't believe Proposition 2 prohibits domestic partnership rights.</p>
<p>State Representative Donna Howard</p>	<p>Yes, the domestic partners of gay and lesbian state employees should get the same benefits. Again, I am not a lawyer, but I think the proponents of Prop. 2 intended it to prevent domestic partnership benefits.</p>
<p>Chris Frandsen</p>	<p>Yes. No.</p>
<p>SBOE 5 Rebecca Bell-Metereau</p>	<p>The State of Texas should provide the same benefits to domestic partners of gay and lesbian State employees, and Proposition 2 is unconstitutional, in my view.</p>
<p>SBOE 10 Judy Jennings</p>	<p>Yes. I do not believe it is prohibited.</p>

<p>Question 10</p>	<p>Would you support or oppose legislation that would prohibit private employers in the State of Texas from offering benefits to the domestic partners of its gay and lesbian employees? Do you believe that Prop. 2 prohibits these benefits?</p>
<p>District Attorney Rosemary Lehmborg</p>	<p>I would oppose legislation to prohibit private employers from offering the benefits. I think private employers are often much more open minded and practical about these issues. Private employers should be able to provide these benefits if they believe it is the right thing to do.</p>
<p>State Representative Donna Howard</p>	<p>I would oppose this type of legislation.</p>
<p>Chris Frandsen</p>	<p>Oppose. No.</p>
<p>SBOE 5 Rebecca Bell-Metereau</p>	<p>I oppose legislation that would prohibit offering benefits to domestic partners of gay and lesbian employees. I believe Proposition 2 does not guarantee these benefits.</p>



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SBOE 10 Judy Jennings	Oppose. I do not believe it is prohibited.
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Question 11	Would you oppose legislation that would prohibit the placement of foster or adoptive children in households with gay or lesbian parents?
District Attorney Rosemary Lehmborg	I opposed this bill when it was argued. It is silly and discriminatory. Travis County judges allow these placements. Child Protective Services looks to gay parents for placements. It is only the Legislature that refuses to accept the concept of same sex parenting.
State Representative Donna Howard	Yes.
Chris Frandsen	Oppose.
SBOE 5 Rebecca Bell-Metereau	I would oppose such legislation.
SBOE 10 Judy Jennings	Yes.

Question 12	Would you oppose legislation that would nullify existing adoptions by gay and lesbian parents?
District Attorney Rosemary Lehmborg	I absolutely would oppose such legislation. This would not only be discriminatory and unconstitutional, it would also harm children who have spent time in these loving homes. The last thing these children need is another loss of parental attachment.
State Representative Donna Howard	Yes.
Chris Frandsen	Yes.
SBOE 5 Rebecca Bell-Metereau	Yes I oppose such legislation.



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SBOE 10 Judy Jennings	Yes.
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Question 13	Would you support legislation that would add gender identity and expression to the James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Act?
District Attorney Rosemary Lehmborg	Yes. The Federal Act is actually stronger than the state law, because it creates a separate offense for a hate crime rather than just the enhancement provided by state statute. Gender identity and expression need to be express in both laws. And the State statute needs to be expressed as "sexual orientation" rather than the current "sexual preference."
State Representative Donna Howard	Yes.
Chris Frandsen	Not certain. Would depend on language.
SBOE 5 Rebecca Bell-Metereau	Yes I would.
SBOE 10 Judy Jennings	Yes.

Question 14	If elected, how would you stay informed of the concerns and interests of your gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgendered constituents?
District Attorney Rosemary Lehmborg	I am tuned in to these issues. I have sponsored a very successful Hate Crimes Task Force that is working on training law enforcement to identify and investigate hate crimes, establish schools that become "No Place For Hate" schools and is now establishing work place criteria for businesses to become "Communities of Respect" businesses. My work in this area is with the Anti Defamation League.
State Representative Donna Howard	My office has a very good relationship with Equality Texas, and they do a great job keeping us informed about when to look out for possibly harmful amendments. The Equality Texas e-newsletter is a great resource as well, and I am also fortunate to have politically active, gay and lesbian friends who share their concerns with me.



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<p>Chris Frandsen</p>	<p>My door would always be open to your group and any other LGBT organization. In addition, if I thought that there was legislation that effected my LGBT constituents I would seek the opinions of this and other such groups.</p>
<p>SBOE 5</p>	
<p>Rebecca Bell-Metereau</p>	<p>I would keep in contact with people I know who care about gay and lesbian rights, read online blogs and newspapers, and take an active part in supporting their rights, particularly as these issues affect students and their parents.</p>
<p>SBOE 10</p>	
<p>Judy Jennings</p>	<p>I'm tempted to say that I would listen to the Republicans on the State Board and do the opposite, but honestly, my orientation is for educational materials to be inclusive and reflective of diversity so that no child feels pigeon-holed into some saccharine notion of what families "ought" to be like.</p>

<p>Question 15</p>	<p>Have you attended other events in the gay and lesbian community? Which events?</p>
<p>District Attorney Rosemary Lehmborg</p>	<p>Hate Crimes Task Force. Human Rights Campaign banquets.</p>
<p>State Representative Donna Howard</p>	<p>I am a regular contributor/attendee at LGBT events and try to attend the Merry Merry Martini Mixer in support of Equality Texas and the Human Rights Campaign Gala Dinner each year. In 2008, I participated in a panel called LGBT Political Issues and the Workplace at Out and Equal Workplace Summit. In 2009, I spoke at the Transgender Community Vigil hosted by the Transgender Education Network of Texas. This year, I accepted an invitation from Paul Scott to serve as model in the fashion show/fundraiser benefitting AIDS Services of Austin. Over the years, I have also participated in several events hosted by Atticus Circle and have been honored to have Dr. John Hogg and his partner David Garza host fundraisers for me at their home.</p>
<p>Chris Frandsen</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>SBOE 5 Rebecca Bell-Metereau</p>	<p>I have attended Human Rights Campaign banquets, AGLFF film showings, Allies training and events at Texas State University, and other social events. I also was a content expert for a documentary film entitled Ladies or Gentlemen, on STARZ network.</p>



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Judy Jennings

I have attended very few public events. Most of my experiences have been with individual friends and family who are members of the gay and lesbian community.