

September 14, 2016

<p>Question 1</p>	<p>Please tell us why you are seeking the endorsement of SDA. Do you consider yourself to be a Democrat? Do you have a history of involvement in Democratic politics and/or LGBTQIA+ issues? If so, please briefly describe this history.</p>
<p>Greg Casar</p>	<p>I'm seeking SDA's endorsement because our LGBTQIA+ activist community is a critical part of our progressive movement, because there is no justice or fairness in our city if there is not justice or fairness for our LGBTQIA+ community, and because in my own district I see how our society's failings fall hardest on lower-income people of color, especially those who are LGBTQIA+. As a member of the Democratic Party, I have worked to support Democratic candidates and Democratic values since the first time I was able to vote, while also organizing community members to ensure that all officials and candidates support our values.</p>

<p>Question 2</p>	<p>Although the landmark Supreme Court decision on June 15th affirming that the 1964 Civil Right Act protects gay, lesbian, and transgender from discrimination in employment was a huge victory in our fight of equality, LGBTQI+ Austinites faces continued attacks from a hostile state government. How will you protect and strengthen our local protections and support passage of a comprehensive non-discrimination state law?</p>
<p>Greg Casar</p>	<p>Every day, our top state and federal officials are making our communities more unequal and more unjust, and they make life harder and harder for everyday people. In the midst of the pandemic, it's clear how many people have needlessly suffered because of these failures. So, it's up to our local government in Austin to be a model of what progressive and inclusive democracy can do. I sponsored the creation of a Civil Rights Office, and in this year's budget we ensured the office would have at least \$2M to enforce our anti-discrimination ordinances and other protections to ensure that our rules are not only on the books, but are protecting Austinites. I worked hard alongside Equality Texas, HRC, LGBT Chamber, and workers rights organizations to successfully block Legislation in the last session that would have ended anti-discrimination ordinances across the state, along with other worker protections. I'm committed to continued organizing and coalition building, and winning elections, until we have statewide anti-discrimination protections and enforcement for all our people.</p>

<p>Question 3</p>	<p>If elected would you commit to appointing LGBTQIA+ individuals to City Boards and Commissions? How will you strengthen the city's connections to the LGBTQIA+ community more generally?</p>

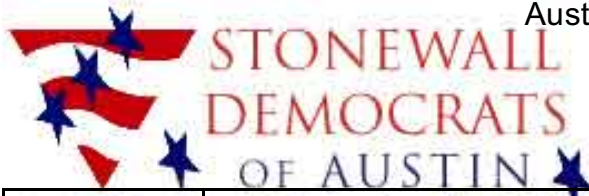


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Greg Casar Yes, I'm proud to have appointed and to continue appointing LGBTQIA+ appointees. (our appointments have included lesbian, gay, bi, trans, and intersex individuals). We must continue to support LGBTQIA+ organizing and priorities in the community and at City Hall. My office continues our support of SEEN for city employees, is ramping up our efforts to elevate and provide leadership development opportunities for LGBTQIA+ activists and community leaders, and I'm committed to deliberately working to foster connections to build power for LGBTQIA+ community members.

<p>Question 4</p>	<p>Do you support the June 8, 2020 Austin LGBTQ Quality of Life Commission Recommendation 20200608-C related to Black Lives Matter? Describe your position on policing reform in Austin and our LGBTQIA+ community.</p>
<p>Greg Casar</p>	<p>Yes. Police violence must end for all people, but it is heavily felt in communities of color and especially Black and LGBTQIA+ individuals of color. Also, I have seen how policing too often fails to address the harm and violence that impacts LGBTQIA+ individuals. In my second year on Council, Monica Loera was murdered in my district-- she was then referred to by APD by her incorrect former name and by incorrect pronouns. Her friends and neighbors did not know what had happened because of APD's incorrect communications. Furthermore, our current system failed to provide the economic security, safety, and support that Monica needed. She is one of many LGBTQ sex workers harmed or killed in our city each year. I led the effort to change APD policy to stop using incorrect, former names of people, or incorrect pronouns. Then, I authored one of the many amendments to the APD budget this year to include funding for sex worker outreach and support and violence prevention. We must reduce our over-reliance on policing as our local government's response to inequality, racial injustice, poverty, and structural inequity. We must end mass incarceration and instead invest in community solutions that address the root causes of harm and violence in community. I am proud and supportive of the actions our City took to reallocate tens of millions of dollars to family violence shelter, services for people experiencing homelessness, COVID response, victim services, and more, and to separate functions like Internal Affairs and the Forensics lab away from APD.</p>

<p>Question 5</p>	<p>Do you think the City of Austin is doing enough to ensure equality for its LGBTQIA+ employees?</p>
<p>Greg Casar</p>	<p>Until we have an end to discrimination and have redressed generations of harm, then we have not done enough.</p>



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<p>Question 6</p>	<p>Describe a step you would take, or have taken, or a proposal you would make, or have made as a member of Austin's City Council that would specifically benefit Austin's LGBTQIA+ community.</p>
<p>Greg Casar</p>	<p>I look forward to hiring the City's first ever Civil Rights Officer to enforce our antidiscrimination rules that protect LGBTQIA+ individuals. I would expand our anti discrimination ordinance to ensure protections for all LGBTQIA+ people. I have heard discussion about adding LGBTQIA+ owned businesses as a category of MBE/WBE business and I would support such a move.</p>