



September 14, 2016

<b>Question 1</b>	<b>Why are you seeking this public office? (Please be brief)</b>
<b>Jimmy Flannigan</b>	I want to make a positive impact in my community, fix the problems facing Austin, and make my district proud.
<b>Question 2</b>	<b>Please tell us why you are seeking the endorsement of SDA. Do you have a history of involvement in Democratic politics and/or LGBTQ issues? If so please briefly describe this history.</b>
<b>Jimmy Flannigan</b>	As the only LGBT candidate running for city council, the endorsement of SDA is important to me personally. I've been a long-time member and club leader, as well as a leader in other clubs (NxNW Democrats, Western Wilco Democrats, Wilco Young Democrats). Prior to that, I led/worked with the Austin Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce for over a decade.
<b>Question 3</b>	<b>Do you believe LGBTQ individuals should be protected against discrimination in employment on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity/expression?</b>
<b>Jimmy Flannigan</b>	Yes.
<b>Question 4</b>	<b>If elected would you commit to appointing LGBTQ individuals to City Boards and Commissions?</b>
<b>Jimmy Flannigan</b>	Yes.
<b>Question 5</b>	<b>Do you think that the Austin Police Department is doing everything it can to make its officers aware of and sensitive to the rights and dignity of Austin's LGBTQ citizens?</b>
<b>Jimmy Flannigan</b>	It does a lot. But like with any diversity issue, we must not get complacent. Transgender training is going to be critical moving forward.
<b>Question 6</b>	<b>If elected, would you act to increase recruitment of LGBTQ employees for the police, fire, and emergency medical services? What proposals would you suggest to make coming out on the job safer for LGBTQ employees?</b>
<b>Jimmy Flannigan</b>	Yes. We need to emphasize diversity recruitment, including LGBT, in all departments. The work of the LGPOA has been great in making it safer for officers to come out and I fully support their efforts.



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<b>Question 7</b>	<b>Do you think the City of Austin is doing enough to ensure equality for its LGBTQ employees? For example, how would you address organizational issues such as transgender employees transitioning on the job?</b>
<b>Jimmy Flannigan</b>	It does so much more than comparable cities in the South that it's difficult to complain. I will be a champion for these issues.
<b>Question 8</b>	<b>If elected, would you continue to uphold the current requirement that a company that receives economic incentives from the City not discriminate against its LGBTQ employees?</b>
<b>Jimmy Flannigan</b>	Yes. Although I believe the era of economic incentives has ended, any company doing business with the city should, at a minimum, have similar non-discrimination policies.
<b>Question 9</b>	<b>How familiar are you with organizations, such as Out Youth, the Austin Gay &amp; Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, and AIDS Services of Austin that serve the LGBTQ community? If elected, would you support increased funding for the services organizations like these provide? What services do you think are crucial for LGBTQ residents?</b>
<b>Jimmy Flannigan</b>	With over a decade of experience leading the AGLCC, I know first-hand the good works these groups do and the challenges they face. City funding requires a very high bar for organization, governance, transparency, and effectiveness, and I look forward to helping make sure our community is able to meet those goals.
<b>Question 10</b>	<b>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 LGBTQ community.</b>
<b>Jimmy Flannigan</b>	The formation of an LGBT quality of life commission.
<b>Question 11</b>	<b>Do you support the requirement that all single-occupancy public restrooms are made available to all people, (for example families and transgender people)?</b>
<b>Jimmy Flannigan</b>	Yes. It's been a simple, straight-forward policy that has benefited many communities, including seniors and the disabled who often have opposite-gender spouses or attendants.



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<b>Question 12</b>	<b>The Texas Democratic Party recently adopted a plank in their 2016 Platform that reads, “support the right of all people to use facilities and participate in all aspects of life in a manner that is consistent with their gender identity, irrespective of the gender they were assigned at birth”. How would you advance or further the goals of this Platform plank in Austin and how would you work with other jurisdictions to advance or further the goals of this plank?</b>
<b>Jimmy Flannigan</b>	Staff training is critical. I don't expect resistance to this from elected officials but staff sometimes struggles to implement correctly. Issues like this should be run through the city's Human Rights Commission and a future LGBT Quality of Life commission to ensure vigilance in implementation. From District 6, we have a unique role to also work with Williamson County and neighboring cities to show them how Austin's implementations have improved the lives of citizens and encouraging them to enact similar protections and processes.
<b>Question 13</b>	<b>Do you believe that public schools should institute rules and policies to prohibit harassment and discrimination against LGBTQ students?</b>
<b>Jimmy Flannigan</b>	Yes,
<b>Question 14</b>	<b>If elected, how would you stay informed of the concerns and interests of your LGBTQ constituents?</b>
<b>Jimmy Flannigan</b>	The formation of an LGBT quality of life commission will be essential to making all of Austin City Council informed on LGBT issues. My own history and experience in the community is just the start and I wouldn't pretend to say it was enough or covered all of the rich tapestry of our community.
<b>Question 15</b>	<b>Have you attended functions in Austin's LGBTQ community and, if so, which?</b>
<b>Jimmy Flannigan</b>	Nearly all of them!