

Candidate Questionnaire Responses
County

January 8, 2020

Question 1	Do you wish to receive the endorsement of the Stonewall Democrats of Austin?
District Attorney Jose Garza	Yes!
Erin Martinson	Yes.
Margaret Moore	Yes.
County Attorney Mike Denton	Yes, of course.
Laurie Eiserloh	Yes! I would be proud to receive the endorsement of Stonewall Dems and was endorsed by the Victory Fund. After graduating UT Law in 1990, I was the Director of Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby. (the name is now outdated and inappropriate). As a pioneer in a two mom family, your endorsement means a lot.
Delia Garza	Yes.
Dominic Selvera	Yes, I do wish to receive the endorsement of SDA.
Sheriff Liz Donegan	Yes!
Sally Hernandez	Yes, I was honored with Stonewall's endorsement in 2012 when I ran for Contable and in 2016 when I first ran for Sheriff. I seek your endorsement again.
Tax Assessor- Collector Bruce Elfant	Yes!
Commissioner - PCT 1 Jeffrey Travillion	Yes.
Commissioner - PCT 3 Valinda Bolton	I do. I hold the SDA in high esteem. The membership includes people I have seen organizing hard for human rights for years, as well as people who are clearly on the path to leadership. It is clearly apparent that you are excellent organizers and your endorsement would concisely show how deeply I care about equal rights for all.
Ann Howard	Yes. I wish to receive the endorsement for the following reasons: 1) Affirms to the broader community that I believe all people are created equal and deserve full protection and rights under the law. 2) Confirms my support for the implementation of policies that create a welcoming, inclusive, and safe community - for all of us.
Shiloh Newman	Yes.

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Sheri Soltes Constable - PCT 1	Yes.
Tonya Nixon	Yes.
Janie Serna Constable - PCT 2	Yes.
Adan Ballesteros Constable - PCT 4	Yes.
George Morales	Absolutely, would like to have the Stonewall Democrats of Austin endorsement.

Question 2	Should you receive this endorsement, would you publicize our endorsement in your campaign advertisements and campaign literature?
District Attorney Jose Garza	Yes!!
Erin Martinson	Yes, proudly!
Margaret Moore County Attorney	Yes.
Mike Denton	Yes, proudly.
Laurie Eiserloh	Yes. I am running as an out and proud lesbian and I would publicize an endorsement by the Stonewall Democrats in all of my campaign materials. I fought for the repeal of the sodomy statute as director of LGRL and am a notorious lesbian advocate.
Delia Garza	Absolutely.
Dominic Selvera	Yes, I will publicize the SDA endorsement in our campaign advertisements, literature, and social media platforms.
Sheriff Liz Donegan	Absolutely, I would be proud to publicize the endorsement.
Sally Hernandez Tax Assessor- Collector	Yes, I will proudly publicize your endorsement of my campaign.
Bruce Elfant	Yes and yes!

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Commissioner - PCT 1	
Jeffrey Travillion	Yes.
Commissioner - PCT 3	
Valinda Bolton	Should I receive the endorsement I will be honored to receive it and will promote that accomplishment in a number of ways. I will notify my supporters and audience through social media and email as well as including an attachment featuring it on my campaign literature.
Ann Howard	Yes. I would proudly publicize the endorsement on social media platforms, in direct mail, and other campaign collateral.
Shiloh Newman	Yes.
Sheri Soltes	Yes.
Constable - PCT 1	
Tonya Nixon	Yes.
Janie Serna	Yes.
Constable - PCT 2	
Adan Ballesteros	Yes.
Constable - PCT 4	
George Morales	I would be honored to publicize SDA's endorsement on our print material and social media.

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Question 3	Please tell us why you are seeking the endorsement of Stonewall? Do you have a history of publicly supporting LGBTQIA+ issues? If so, please briefly describe this history.
District Attorney Jose Garza	<p>Right here in Travis County, our criminal justice system is broken. In the most progressive county in the state, our criminal justice system weighs most heavily on working class people, people of color, and the LGBTQIA+ community. Within the LGBTQIA+ community, our criminal justice system weighs most heavily on LGBTQIA+ people of color. Nationally, for example, 85% of LGBTQIA+ youth in juvenile justice facilities are youth of color. In addition, according to research produced by the Center for American Policy, LGBTQIA+ immigrants of color are at increased risk of interaction with the criminal justice system and the immigration enforcement system. Here in Austin this past September, Austin Independent School District (AISD) Police opened an investigation into Naomi Wilson, a local transgendered black woman. They began investigating her because she spoke up when she was harassed and bullied during an AISD board meeting. When the LGBTQIA+ community rallied in support of Naomi, I was honored to be invited to participate in a press conference to speak out against AISD Police conduct. I was proud to stand by Naomi and demand that she and all of LGBTQIA+ community be treated with dignity and respect by local law enforcement. In addition, as the Executive Director of Workers Defense and during my time as an assistant federal public defender, I have consistently advocated on behalf of members of LGBTQIA+ community fleeing persecution in their home countries. I would be honored to partner with Stonewall to create a criminal justice system in Travis County that works for everyone.</p>
Erin Martinson	<p>I have worked with victims of violent crime for the entirety of my career. As such, I have represented many LGBTQIA clients in court, helping them secure protective orders to keep them safe. I have managed two programs aimed at assisting crime victims and, in both organizations, I created policies that were friendly to LGBTQIA folks. When I worked for Texas Legal Services Center, we conducted outreach specific to the LGBTQIA community to ensure they were aware of our services. I've marched in Pride parades alongside my LGBTQIA neighbors and have attended public awareness events such as Intersex Awareness Day at City Hall. I am seeking your endorsement because you are my favorite club in Austin and I am committed to ensuring that those who identify as LGBTQIA feel safe in our community.</p>
Margaret Moore	<p>I value the message this endorsement would send to voters. I do have a history of support. I serve on the Austin/Travis County Hate Crimes Task Force. We joined APD in promoting its "Safe Place" program to help victims of anti-LGBTQIA+ crimes. I have two prosecutors who handle all hate crime investigations, which enables them to specialize in the issues surrounding these cases. They are consulted by law enforcement when a suspected hate crime occurs. We are currently prosecuting a hate crime case that involves an assault on a gay couple.</p>

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County Attorney Mike Denton	Stonewall Democrats commitment to fairness and justice is well-known; I would be proud to have your endorsement. Yes, I have a long history of publicly supporting LGBTQIA+ issues. More than 25 years ago, as a volunteer at the Austin Rape Crisis Center, I responded to calls to assist survivors of same sex assault. In one case, I was in the hospital room with a victim who was reluctant to have women in the room; his trauma and anguish and the trauma for his family is unforgettable. When I opened the Domestic Violence court I ensured that same sex couples were issued protective orders - at that time, many states and counties refused to include same sex couples in these courts. After the Obergefell decision, I was one of the first judges to conduct weddings and continue to do so. As lead prosecutor (CA) I pushed law enforcement to report and file hate crimes. In Phoenix court, I made sure that this program is available to everyone, helping prevent criminal records.
Laurie Eiserloh	I have 27 years' experience as a trial lawyer and 30 years as an LGBTQIA+ advocate. I will fight Trump, Abbott, Paxton or anyone who tries to harm us. The County Attorney has been a local leader in protecting and advancing the rights of LGBTQIA+ since the early 1990's when it helped establish Domestic Partner benefits and a registry at the height of the AIDS crises. When AG Abbott attempted to take those benefits in 2013, I was a leader on the County legal team that fought back. When Sarah and Suzanne were married in 2015, I was on the team that cut a path forward for them. With the U.S. Supreme Court considering whether LGBTQIA+ people are protected from employment discrimination, locally we must have a County Attorney who is ready to fight back and protect our community.
Delia Garza	I have been grateful to receive the endorsement of Stonewall in my past campaigns and would be honored to receive your support again. My history of publicly supporting LGBTQIA+ issues includes: as a council member and Mayor Pro-Tem, I co-sponsored the creation of the LGBTQ Quality of Life Commission; I co-sponsored the resolution to prohibit the use of city dollars to support businesses connected to conversion therapy; I have participated in several Pride Parades; and I have spoken out publicly on numerous occasions to support the LGBTQIA+ community and, as an ally, I would continue to fight for this community.
Dominic Selvera	I am seeking the endorsement of SDA because I believe in building a broad coalition of Democrats in order to bring criminal justice reform to Travis County. I have always supported LGBTQIA+ issues and I proudly show my support by wearing one of my favorite shirts which has a rainbow equality sign on it.

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Sheriff	
Liz Donegan	I was part of the "It gets better" video at the Austin Police Department. I was the officer who sent off this idea to the LGPOA after seeing San Francisco PD's video. I was member of the Austin PD Lesbian Gay Police Officer Association. I've marched in Pride in Austin and attended marches in DC and NY. When I was growing up it was still a very dangerous, precarious time to be a member of the community. Very few people were "out". Going out to the bars was mostly done in secret and with only a few select friends within the community. When I first was applying at the Austin Police Department the core issue of my application was around my sexuality - this was 1992. So I have personally experienced some of the hate. I an extremely sensitive to the needs of community and I know we can do better within policing - a lot better.
Sally Hernandez	I believe that the LGBTQIA+ community is an important part of the Democratic Party and our society. An endorsement from Stonewall would represent the values that I champion in my campaign, among those being equity, diversity, and partnership. While I was Chief of Investigations, I was a member of the Austin/Travis County Hate Crimes Task Force. The mission of the task force was to create a forum that fosters open dialogue about hate and discrimination to strengthened the bonds of our community through prevention, response, and restoration. As Sheriff, I implemented a system which allows transgender and gender non-conforming people to be placed in the facility in which they are most comfortable. Additionally, I have continued to be a partner with the Austin/Travis County Hate Crimes Task Force.
Tax Assessor-Collector	
Bruce Elfant	I have worked on behalf of civil rights issues my whole life. I marched for civil rights with my parents in the 60s. I campaigned gor the Equal Rights Amendment in the 70s. In the 80s I campaigned for Austin's Fair Housing ordinance. When I first ran for Constable in 1990 and was asked about my stance on same sex marriage my response was always "I'm pro choice." I am very proud to have played a supporting role in helping organize the very first same sex marriage in Texas.
Commissioner - PCT 1	
Jeffrey Travillion	I have a long history of supporting civil rights for all. I believe that LGBTQIA+ issues are civil and human rights issues and have been at the forefront of support those issues.

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**Commissioner -
PCT 3**

Valinda Bolton I marvel at how improved the climate is for the LGBT+ community today as opposed to my youth. When I was in high school in the class of '77 several friends took real risks of being ostracized and facing violence in coming out. I remember supporting a friend during their coming out with their parents and explaining, when they could not, that it was not a choice being made. I have been endorsed as an ally by the Human Rights Campaign, Equality Texas and even the Stonewall Democrats of Austin during my campaigns to be State Representative for HD-47 at a time when many candidates did not seek those endorsements. In office I consistently voted against hateful and discriminatory legislation and still support those efforts by donating to the Texas house LGBTQ Caucus. I maintained equal protections in my work as a rape crisis counselor, Exec

Ann Howard I believe the mission of Stonewall Democrats is consistent with what it means to me to be a progressive Democrat. We work to break down societal barriers so that all people can achieve and participate fully in our community. We strive to right the wrongs of the past and to help fulfill the promise of America's future. As the Executive Director of ECHO, I hired and promoted people without regard to sexual orientation. When leaving ECHO, I was proud to learn that our LGBTQIA+ employees felt very supported by me and identified that as a strength they wanted in the next ED. In addition, I worked here and across the US to develop a movement to end youth homelessness and support LGBTQIA+, as we know that youth expressing their queerness is a leading cause of homelessness.

Shiloh Newman I need to be honest, I am not a politician. In fact, this is the first public office I have ever run for. That being said, I do not have any history of publicly supporting LGBTQIA, but if given the opportunity I would. I would greatly appreciate your support and endorsement.

Sheri Soltes Because the issues of the LGBTQIA+ community are human rights issues! None of us is free unless all of us is free. LGBTQIA+ persons continue to suffer from discrimination ranging from bullying to refusal of services, to refusal to marry and be able to adopt to violence to murder. This is all intolerable and it is everyone's duty to oppose it in every way possible. My history of supporting the LGBTQIA+ community includes hiring LGBTQIA+ members on my staff at Service Dogs, Inc., recruiting them for my board of directors, including electing LGBTQIA+ members as Board officers, hiring LGBTQIA+ members for my campaign staff & marching in multiple PRIDE parades.

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**Constable - PCT
1**

Tonya Nixon The LGBTQIA community is very active and contributes immeasurably in Austin. I am seeking the endorsement of the Stonewall Democrats because I too believe that people should not be discriminated upon based on sexual orientation or gender identity. I have many friends that are a part of the LGBT community and I have participated in events hosted by members of the LGBT community.

Janie Serna Since Constable's offices are not "call driven," there is a genuine opportunity to develop police-community partnerships, a foundation for communities that are safer and [ultimately] more caring places to live. We will focus on issues important to the community, including, for example, investing in our children. Estimates show that children are 1/3 of our population... They are 100% of our future, and I want that future to be bright. Additionally, I will keep an "open door" for all community members... always ready to listen for suggestions on how to improve service. I am a current Stonewall member, I participate in the Pride Parade annually, I proudly received the Stonewall endorsement during my 2016 race for this same seat, and I am excited to potentially receive it again.

**Constable - PCT
2**

Adan Ballesteros am seeking the Stonewall Democrats endorsement because I support the political motivations of the group. I believe that as a Democrat and a member of the Democrat party, our efforts should be pushed towards supporting the causes and beliefs of all members of society who have historically been discriminated against, including the LGBTQIA+ community. I have hired LGBTQIA+ members and helped others to secure employment in Travis County and have fully supported LGBTQIA+ youth in our Explorer program.

**Constable - PCT
4**

George Morales My platform has always been about including and treating everyone equally especially those that have a history of being singled out. I am glad to say that my LGBTQIA+ friends know that I have always made sure that they have equal access as everyone else. In my family and community I have always provided opportunity and made sure that employment, health and sexual orientation are respected.

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Question 4	Would you support a state law that would prohibit discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations based on sexual orientation and gender identity or expression? Why?
District Attorney Jose Garza	Yes, absolutely. The number one priority of any District Attorney is to keep our community safe. When people are denied employment, housing, and public accommodations because of discrimination, that creates more instability for families and communities and that makes all of us less safe. LGBTQIA+ people of color are overrepresented nationally in our criminal justice system because of a variety of factors. They are pushed into our criminal justice system by unsafe schools; family rejection; and poverty, unemployment, and discrimination. I have spent my entire career - as a public defender, at the National Labor Relations Board, at the Department of Labor, and as the Executive Director of Workers Defense Project - fighting side by side with working people in order to help foster stability for families and communities. I would advocate for a state law that would prohibit discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations based on sexual orientation and gender identity or expression because it is the right thing to do and because it will foster stability and keep our community safe.
Erin Martinson	Absolutely. Housing, employment and public benefits are basic human rights that should be available to everyone, regardless of their status.
Margaret Moore	Yes. In this Office, we follow that policy now, but I believe it is important for this State to formally prohibit discrimination.
County Attorney Mike Denton	Yes, of course. This is fundamental fairness - there is no other justification needed.
Laurie Eiserloh	Yes, I fully support. Travis County is pioneer in granting full benefits to employees starting with DP benefits in the 1990's and more recently paying for gender reassignment surgery and hormone therapy for its employees. Thus, a number of LGBTQIA+ people work for Travis County and as a board-certified labor lawyer, and lesbian, I have the history and experience to protect this workforce and will fight so that all Texans have the same benefits.
Delia Garza	Yes. This is a matter of civil and human rights and should be the law now. Everyone deserves dignity and respect and discrimination in any form against members of our LGBTQIA+ community is unacceptable.
Dominic Selvera	I would support such a state law because discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression is wrong. We need strong anti-discrimination legislation in Texas that protects the LGBTQIA+ community.

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Sheriff	
Liz Donegan	Absolutely. I know from my work in the sexual assault space, that this "issue" is made up and is nothing more than hateful, fear-mongering rhetoric pushed by the right. I was contacted by the first state (North Carolina) as an expert in relation to alleged sex assaults (in bathrooms) by members of the trans community. Which I vehemently opposed the notion being put forth based on the evidence of my expertise.
Sally Hernandez	Yes, while it was a major victory that the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed the constitutional right to marry, we must continue to change the many other aspects in which the LGBTQIA+ community experiences disparity and discrimination. This is especially true here in Texas where the Texas Supreme Court ruled that LGBTQIA+ couples are not entitled to benefits.
Tax Assessor-Collector	
Bruce Elfant	Yes. As an employer the only thing I care about is whether applicants can do the job. To exclude applicants for discriminatory reasons would be immoral and would risk missing out on the most qualified and capable applicants.
Commissioner - PCT 1	
Jeffrey Travillion	Yes, because no one should be discriminated against.
Commissioner - PCT 3	
Valinda Bolton	Absolutely. Equal protection under the law is inviolable and must be applied to everyone without exception. The rights of any group being undermined is an attack on the rights of every person. Anyone thinking that privilege will protect them from the erosion of their rights is delusional and allowing harm that may be irreparable. Further, guaranteeing these benefits will be of compounding benefit to people who are a part of multiple marginalized communities, especially important in housing.
Ann Howard	I strongly support the proposed federal Equality Act that would amend the Civil Rights Act to offer these protections. In the meanwhile, I advocate for a state law that specifically prohibits such discrimination. While this type of discrimination is widespread, it is wrong. I believe US policy should reflect our values for equal protection, giving legal recourse and making it easier to end the discrimination.
Shiloh Newman	Yes. There is not a time or place for justification of discrimination in any form at all in Travis county.
Sheri Soltes	Yes. Because these are issues of basic humanity and decency. We all stand to benefit when our society is inclusive, welcoming and equal under all laws and practices.

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Constable - PCT 1	
Tonya Nixon	Yes because I would support state law that would prohibit any type of discrimination. I do not support any type of prejudice based on sexual orientation and believe there should be nondiscrimination laws to protect LGBT individuals.
Janie Serna	Yes. Although I am sure this is geared more towards larger seat candidates, I am compelled to answer. We define ourselves by what is best in us. Bias is only acceptable when it relates to Being Inspired by and Admiring Someone.
Constable - PCT 2	
Adan Ballesteros	Yes. There is no reason for anyone to be held back or punished when seeking employment or housing for expressing their sexual orientation or identity. We have laws prohibiting discrimination for all other walks of life.
Constable - PCT 4	
George Morales	Yes. Again, no one should be discriminated because of their sexual orientation.

Question 5	Would you advocate for and support a state law that would prohibit discrimination against or harassment of LGBTQIA+ students or teachers in Texas public schools on the basis of their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression?
District Attorney Jose Garza	Yes.
Erin Martinson	Yes. In fact, I have worked on many Title IX and other education law cases, including those involving LGBTQIA students who were harassed at school.
Margaret Moore	Yes.
County Attorney Mike Denton	Yes, of course. As above, this is basic fairness, shouldn't ever be in doubt.
Laurie Eiserloh	Absolutely. As Travis County Attorney I would publicly support such legislation. LGBTQIA+ people have always educated children. At the same time, the classroom has been the scene of many bigotted and hateful actions: teachers fired and students punished, just for being themselves. It is time to protect LGBTQIA+ students and teachers from bigotry and hatred so that the classroom is a place of education about self-loving rather than self-loathing. The vitriol that surfaced during the bathroom bill discussion shows the need for such protections.
Delia Garza	Absolutely.

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Dominic Selvera	Yes, same reason as above. Schools should be a safe place of acceptance for students, teachers, and administrators to be themselves without fear of harassment or discrimination.
Sheriff	
Liz Donegan	Absolutely. We have to teach our children that diversity is good and is healthy. School is hard enough without the bias and hate that some parents are teaching their children. Everyone should feel safe at school.
Sally Hernandez	Yes, schools should be safe places and it is alarming that those most affected by the school-to-prison pipeline and homelessness are LGBTQIA+ students due to the harassment they face. As Sheriff, I have empowered our school resource officers to be partners and to be a person of refuge and safety for students and teachers.
Tax Assessor-Collector	
Bruce Elfant	Yes.
Commissioner - PCT 1	
Jeffrey Travillion	Yes.
Commissioner - PCT 3	
Valinda Bolton	Yes. With the recent attempts to further marginalize transgender youth with bathroom legislation, having legislation providing broad protections for youth is critical. While the bathroom bills may not have passed the Texas legislature, the message that was sent to many in Texas was clear. There has been tacit approval for harassment in schools from the highest level of Texas government. While it isn't binding it has caused real trauma to many and must be reversed with the full force of the law.
Ann Howard	Yes, wholeheartedly.
Shiloh Newman	I would happily support any law that would prohibit discrimination in public schools. I am not sure that the county commissioner plays an active role in writing and passing laws but you can count on my support.
Sheri Soltes	Yes.
Constable - PCT 1	
Tonya Nixon	Yes. Schools should be a safe environment for LGBT students and teachers. They should be afforded the same opportunities to be open, should they choose to do so, about their sexual orientation or gender identity without fear of harassment or harm.
Janie Serna	Yes.

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<p>Constable - PCT 2 Adan Ballesteros</p> <p>Constable - PCT 4 George Morales</p>	<p>Yes.</p> <p>As a big proponent of education, all students and teachers should be afforded the same rights as everyone else.</p>
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<p>Question 6</p>	<p>In December 2017, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear a case from the Texas Supreme Court that ruled that the Obergefell v. Hodges decision did not guarantee same-sex couples the same employee benefits as their straight counterparts. Do you agree with this decision? If elected, what steps would you take to ensure all employees are treated fairly in matters of compensation?</p>
<p>District Attorney Jose Garza</p> <p>Erin Martinson</p> <p>Margaret Moore County Attorney Mike Denton</p> <p>Laurie Eiserloh</p>	<p>No, I do not. I support compensation transparency, across-the-board pay increases when possible, collective bargaining agreements, and policies that prohibit compensation discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression in order to ensure fairness in matters of compensation.</p> <p>No, I do not. When I am elected, I will continue to fight for the rights of everyone in our community. I will create equitable policies so that employees of the DA's office do not feel discriminated against because of their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.</p> <p>No. I support Travis County's commitment to providing these benefits.</p> <p>The Texas Supreme Court got it wrong! As CA, I would advise the Commissioners' Court that same sex couples should receive the exact same employee benefits as straight employees. If required, the County should consider filing suit to force the issue again.</p> <p>I do not agree with that decision. Now the U.S. Supreme Court is considering whether Title VII (law that prohibits employment discrimination) applies to LGBTQI+ people. If the Supreme Court rules in the negative, my fear is that Governor Abbott and AG Paxton will use this ruling against our community. If that happens, as the Travis County Attorney, I will use my vast experience as a litigator and LGBTQI+ advocate to protect Travis County employees and to set a beacon for other employers in Texas.</p>

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Delia Garza	No, like the attorney representing the City of Houston, I agree that "Equal recognition of same-sex marriage requires more than a marriage license; it requires equal access to the constellation of benefits that the state has linked to marriage." If elected I would work with the human resources staff to ensure that we are surveying employees regularly to understand and address any concerns about unfair compensation from all employees.
Dominic Selvera	I do not agree with the decision from the Texas Supreme Court that discriminated against same-sex couples and deprived them of benefits that they deserved. As Travis County Attorney, I would be a public advocate to end this discrimination and publicly call out and shame any company that discriminated on this basis. Any company that operates in this manner should face a public boycott similar to Chic-fil-a.
Sheriff	
Liz Donegan	I would follow in the steps that the city took in relation to same sex couples. I would advocate for equal rights for all my employees.
Sally Hernandez	I do not agree with this decision. I believe that all my employees, almost 1,800 wonderful people who protect and serve Travis County are each entitled to the same benefits as any of their colleagues no matter their gender, sexual orientation, or gender expression.
Tax Assessor-Collector	
Bruce Elfant	Hell no! I would make my views known at Commissioners Court, the State Legislature and anywhere else it might do some good.
Commissioner - PCT 1	
Jeffrey Travillion	No. We regularly conduct wage studies which focus on market wages and job experience. We focus on an objective criteria for compensation, not subjective criteria that have nothing to do with performing the job.
Commissioner - PCT 3	
Valinda Bolton	I do not agree with the decision. I am already planning a push to secure guarantees on wages, working conditions and terms of work for all county employees and contractors. We can extend that to entities that enter into a service agreement with the county as well. While making sure that a high standard of protection for workers is in place I will specifically enumerate that there be equity based on sexual orientation and gender identity built into all contracts. We can set a standard thus.

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<p>Ann Howard</p>	<p>No, I do not agree with the Court's decision. I believe that benefits based on marriage extend to all married couples. As a County Commissioner, within my first 100 days, I would ask the County HR Department and AFSCME for briefings on HR policies to understand more fully how the County handles these benefits and if there are any policy gaps that need to be corrected. I'd begin working with staff and community stakeholders to work on any discrepancies, immediately.</p>
<p>Shiloh Newman</p>	<p>I do not agree with this ruling from the Supreme Court. If elected I would support any measures that can correct similar situations trying to ensure that future generations will be treated fairly.</p>
<p>Sheri Soltes</p>	<p>No. It was a big setback and wrong. Have an open door policy for anyone who feels that they are discriminated against because of sexual orientation and gender identity or expression. Hire a diverse staff to encourage diversity in all hiring. Liaise with representatives of the LGBTQIA+ community to make sure I am utilizing best practices.</p>
<p>Constable - PCT 1</p>	
<p>Tonya Nixon</p>	<p>I do not agree with the decision because it is legal to be married to the same sex in Texas as of 2015. Once you legalized same sex marriage, the recognition of the marriage has to be treated equally as heterosexuals. If elected I would ensure all employees are treated fairly in matters of compensation as sexual orientation or gender identity will not be a factor in workplace decisions.</p>
<p>Janie Serna</p>	<p>As a current Board of Trustee Member for the Manor Independent School District, I advocated for and led the vote for all bus drivers to receive a well-deserved pay increase to a livable wage of \$20/hour. I will continue to fight for my staff once elected as the Constable of Travis County Precinct 1, ensuring each of them have whatever they need to be successful.</p>
<p>Constable - PCT 2</p>	
<p>Adan Ballesteros</p>	<p>No I do not agree. I will always advocate for my employees and every other county employee to receive equal compensation and benefits regardless of their sexual orientation.</p>
<p>Constable - PCT 4</p>	
<p>George Morales</p>	<p>No. A partner is a partner and a spouse is a spouse - those that care for each other should receive the same benefits. As Constable of Pct. 4 all my employees receive fair treatment and compensation.</p>

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Question 7	Do you support LGBT foster or adoptive parents (prospective or current) having 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?
District Attorney Jose Garza	Yes and yes.
Erin Martinson	Yes. I have many friends in same-sex relationships who have adopted children and I can't imagine if they had been denied the opportunity to be parents. I do not think one's sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression should have any bearing on whether a person will be a good parent.
Margaret Moore County Attorney	Yes, I do support and would advocate for such a law.
Mike Denton	As an adoptive parent myself, I do support LGBT foster and adoptive parents. I know that real families are made, not born.
Laurie Eiserloh	Yes. I am a lesbian adoptive parent myself. Because of discriminatory laws at the time of my childrens' births I had to go through the stressful and expensive process of adopting my own children because my partner Jess was the biological mother. I believe that all parents and all families are entitled to equal treatment under the law. As Travis County Attorney I would always publicly advocate for such legislation.
Delia Garza	Absolutely. And yes I would advocate for and support such a law.
Dominic Selvera	I do support LGBT foster and adoptive parents having the same rights and protections as heterosexual foster and adoptive parents. I would happily advocate for and support such a state law.
Sheriff Liz Donegan	Absolutely. As the mother of an adopted son, I know the joys (and sometimes tribulations) of being a parent. Prospective parents within the community should never have to worry about whom you choose to love as being a barrier for adopting a child.
Sally Hernandez	Yes, I support LGBTQIA+ foster and adoptive parents because every child deserves a loving and caring home. I would support a state law advocating for such, if state law does not already protect LGBTQIA+ foster and adoptive parents due to the recent Obergefell decision.
Tax Assessor-Collector Bruce Elfant	Yes and yes.

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<p>Commissioner - PCT 1</p> <p>Jeffrey Travillion</p>	<p>Yes. I would not support leaving children in an under funded institution when there are loving families who want to raise the children.</p>
<p>Commissioner - PCT 3</p> <p>Valinda Bolton</p>	<p>This is a matter I have deep experience on. I have supported such a law in the past and will again and again. In my work at the office of Child Protective Services I have seen the deep need for competent, capable and willing foster and adoptive parents. Children who aren't raised by their parents would all be served by having parents. The gender identity and sexual orientation of those parents (or the children for that matter) has no bearing on how much a child's life is improved by being a part of a family. The recent push to provide a legal right to faith based organizations to refuse to work with organizations representing LGBTQIA+ couple trying to adopt puts children and youth at risk of not finding a loving and safe forever family.</p>
<p>Ann Howard</p>	<p>Yes, I think members of the LGBTQIA+ should have the same rights and protections as heterosexual foster or adoptive parents. I would be willing to advocate and support a state law that affords these protections.</p>
<p>Shiloh Newman</p>	<p>Yes I support LGBT foster or adoptive parents having the same rights and protections afforded under current law as heterosexual foster or adoptive parents. I would advocate and support changes in these laws. There are so many children that need loving secure homes. LGBT parents could save so many children that are sadly slipping through the cracks of our system.</p>
<p>Sheri Soltes</p> <p>Constable - PCT 1</p>	<p>Yes and yes.</p>
<p>Tonya Nixon</p>	<p>There should not be substantial obstacles in the way of LGBT foster or adoptive parents wanting to foster or adopt children. They should have the same rights and protections afforded to heterosexual foster or adoptive parents. There should be laws and policies that protect LGBT potential foster or adoptive parents from discrimination.</p>
<p>Janie Serna</p> <p>Constable - PCT 2</p>	<p>Yes and yes.</p>
<p>Adan Ballesteros</p> <p>Constable - PCT 4</p>	<p>Yes. I would advocate and support such a law.</p>
<p>George Morales</p>	<p>Yes. Both of my gay uncles are raising adopted children and I support them one thousand percent.</p>

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Question 8	If elected, what concrete actions would you take to support the Intersex community?
District Attorney Jose Garza	For too long, the Intersex community was not acknowledged in Austin and issues that impact that community were not addressed. Because of the advocacy of Stonewall members and others, the City of Austin has taken some steps to recognize the harm that the intersex community sometimes faces - such as unwanted medical procedures. The primary responsibility of the District Attorney is to keep our community safe. I have learned a tremendous amount from advocates and when I am elected, I will continue to listen to advocates to learn how best the District Attorney's office can keep all of our community - including the Intersex community - safe.
Erin Martinson	I will continue to show up for and advocate for the rights of intersex individuals and I will support legislation that prohibits doctors from performing surgeries on children before they are able to consent.
Margaret Moore	The same actions I've already taken to prosecute cases without regard to sexual orientation, gender identity or expression. We also do not discriminate on that bases in our employment decisions.
County Attorney Mike Denton	The Intersex community needs proactive support. Unfortunately, the stigma and actual danger for people in this group begins at birth. From the legal system perspective, it is necessary to understand how the system is failing the Intersex community now in order to craft specific and effective changes. Beyond the legal system, we must include Child Protective Services, foster care and medical professionals to find solutions. I would be happy to participate in this process.
Laurie Eiserloh	I will strongly advocate against: (1) so-called "gender normalizing" surgeries until a person is old enough to make their own decision about whether to have the procedure; and (2) TX law requiring male/female only after a gender change. I will advocate for change to Travis County HR documents to include nonbinary gender descriptions. I will immediately change County Attorney domestic violence intake forms which currently allow gender binary terms only.
Delia Garza	I would create a policy in County Attorney's office that requires the use of proper pronouns and preferred names for victims and defendants. I would also work with our social service community to create appropriate counseling for the Intersex victims of domestic abuse. Furthermore, when incarcerated, the transgender, intersex, and gender nonconforming community need to be given proper facilities that do not place them in danger. I would work with the sheriff's office to ensure safety in our jails.

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Dominic Selvera	I would fight to make sure that intersex folks are not discriminated against based on how they identify sexually. I would also make sure that people's preferred pronouns are respected and adhered to in our office.
Sheriff	
Liz Donegan	I would advocate for policy changes within TCSO, statewide and nationally. The intersex community should not be shamed nor kept in the shadows. First responders, investigators and corrections officers will be trained to be sensitive to the needs of the community. I will create practice and policy and ensure they are acted upon to meet the needs of the community. PREA (prison rape elimination act) committee at TCSO should have a representation from the intersex and trans community.
Sally Hernandez	As your Sheriff, I believe in partnership and building bridges. I want to put a spotlight on issues and work together to move the ball forward. I am willing to work with groups and any community members to better train my officers to interact with people from different backgrounds. As Sheriff, I have worked to ensure that anyone who is booked into the correctional facility is safe and placed into the facility that they are most comfortable in.
Tax Assessor-Collector	
Bruce Elfant	I have supported the Intersex community and will continue to take part in efforts to support their full inclusion in Travis County. There will be no discrimination of Intersex applicants, employees or customers in the Travis County Tax Office.
Commissioner - PCT 1	
Jeffrey Travillion	I support raising awareness of Intersex community issues and addressing community priorities. My office is always a meet and address community issues.
Commissioner - PCT 3	
Valinda Bolton	The Travis County clerk's office needs to examine all of the documentation it keeps to make sure that it is inclusive and affirming of all genders, including intersex people. As we push to provide more comprehensive mental and behavioral health for Travis County we need to make sure that county health service providers are trained on sexual health and gender identity. We can also block funding from the County for Intersex surgeries that happen before an age allowing informed consent
Ann Howard	I would start by meeting with members of the Intersex community who could bring me up to speed on local policy issues related to their concerns on a broad spectrum of issues from housing to courts to healthcare. As a progressive Democrat, I am committed to breaking down barriers that hold people back. I'm committed to undoing and eliminating systemic discrimination of all kinds.

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Shiloh Newman	The job of Travis County Commissioner focuses mainly on roads, parks and infrastructure. I would look for ways to support your community and happily listen to any ideas you have for ways my position would help most.
Sheri Soltes	Although the county does not have legislative power, I would support efforts to adapt the census to include a category for intersex, to allow intersex individuals equal rights to serve in the military, to oppose so called "corrective surgery" unless it is to resolve a life threatening crisis.
Constable - PCT 1	
Tonya Nixon	The first step would be to get more informed, educated, and involved with the Intersex community. I just started learning more about the Intersex community this year after meeting Alicia Weigel.
Janie Serna	The first thing would be to better educate myself, and that will happen regardless of election outcome. Once elected, I'd start with a dialogue involving local (and some less local) legislators - discussing intersex human rights issues.
Constable - PCT 2	
Adan Ballesteros	I am just becoming aware of the term and feel we as a society should review the policies of the medical community and determine the right course of action that takes into account the desires of the individual. I would support any future legislation that advocates for members of the Intersex community.
Constable - PCT 4	
George Morales	I will continue, as a Constable, to make sure that the intersex community has their rights and safety protected. I will advocate for laws that increases their rights and gets rid of discriminatory practices.

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Question 9	Do you think the judicial system is doing everything it can to be sensitive to the rights and dignity of our LGBTQIA citizens?
District Attorney Jose Garza	No. In the most progressive county in the state, our criminal justice system weighs most heavily on working class people, people of color, and the LGBTQIA+ community. Within the LGBTQIA+ community, our criminal justice system weighs most heavily on LGBTQIA+ people of color. LGBTQIA+ people of color are overrepresented nationally in our criminal justice system because of a variety of factors. They are pushed into our criminal justice system by unsafe schools; family rejection; and poverty, unemployment, and discrimination. In addition, LGBTQIA+ people of color are disproportionately impacted by discriminatory enforcement of drug laws. Because of high rates of substance use within the LGBTQIA+ community and high rates of drug arrests among people of color, LGBTQIA+ people of color are at greater risk of arrest for drug related offenses. It doesn't have to be this way. We have the power to fix this.
Erin Martinson	No, I do not. I think that even in progressive Travis county, we have some judges with very archaic ideas about marriage, families and relationships. I think many LGBTQIA individuals feel discriminated against in court and I have witnessed this firsthand in court. I think we have a lot of work to do to continue educating the judiciary and continuing to bring cases fighting for the LGBTQIA community. I am excited that for the first time, we have several candidates who identify as LGBTQIA.
Margaret Moore	One initiative I've supported that is yet to be implemented is to adopt policies that would make complaints filed by law enforcement non-gender specific.
County Attorney Mike Denton	While progress has been made, it has not gone far enough. Stigma and discrimination are still common and these biases can be reflected in the behavior of judges, poice and prosecutors. As an instructor for the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, I have taught all over the country, stressing awareness of LGBTQIA issues and uring Judges to respond with sensitivity and fairness. These changes must also apply to judicial staff, prosecutors and police.
Laurie Eiserloh	While Travis County Judges do better than most for our community, they are constrained by state law and we must advocate for change. We should not have to adopt our own children, we should not be forced into binary gender categories, gender nonconforming detainees in the jail should be housed in the jail population matching their chosen gender. Agree with the 9th Cir. which held that a prison's failure to provide gender reassignment surgery is cruel and unusual.
Delia Garza	No. In addition to the changes I would make referenced above, there should be a position either in the County Attorney or District Attorney's office that could be the point person on LGBTQIA issues. This person could also be in charge of administering continuing legal education to both offices to help educate the legal community on LGBTQIA issues and help train prosecutors (and judges) on working with LGBTQIA victims in a way that is trauma-informed and inclusive.

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Dominic Selvera	I do not think the judicial system is doing everything it can to be sensitive to the rights and dignity of the LGBTQIA+ community. One of the major problems is that conservative judges hold anti-LGBT views and allow discrimination to exist. The Texas Supreme Court, 5 th Court of Appeals, and the Supreme Court have a majority of Republicans on the bench and it should be a priority to vote them off the bench in Texas and vote in a Democrat to the White House who will push through progressive judges at the federal level.
Sheriff	
Liz Donegan	Absolutely not. Within the judicial system so much more can be done to change the culture, to educate and to advocate for members of the community. Law enforcement should be collaborating with the community on issues that are unique to the community. Inviting the community in to be partners in change in both law enforcement and the jail. Training officers and making changes to policy and procedures in how to appropriately address the trans community. Police reports and probable cause affidavits that use preferred pronouns should be implemented.
Sally Hernandez	No, but not because we are not trying to improve the system but rather because there is always room for improvement. We must always face challenges and learn. Challenges are daunting and won't be completely remedied overnight. Learning is an ongoing process. I don't pretend to know everything, but I do promise to work hard and continue building partnerships and building bridges to ensure that the practices at my office are the best and replicated across this state.
Tax Assessor-Collector	
Bruce Elfant	Since many court rulings have struck down efforts to end discrimination I would have to say no.
Commissioner - PCT 1	
Jeffrey Travillion	No. We need to continue to raise awareness of issues and build a forum to address problems.
Commissioner - PCT 3	
Valinda Bolton	Travis County has many compassionate judges e.g. we have become a common place for Texans to seek gender changes on legal documents. However, the law is stacked against the LGBTQIA+ community in a number of ways. Homosexual panic is an outrageous legal loophole that is being used successfully to defend hate crimes. There have been decisions allowing denial of service to LGBTQIA+ couples by businesses and religious group creating legal precedent for discrimination.

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Ann Howard	No. I have strong concerns about federal and state courts inability to understand the rights (or lack thereof) and dignity of our LGBTQIA+ citizens. However, as County Commissioner, my initial focus will be to ensure that our local courts are managed properly to ensure that rights and dignity are respected. This holds true for our overall criminal justice system here in Travis County.
Shiloh Newman	Obviously the judicial system has a history of failing the LGBTQIA community. While changes have been slowly happening, it's clear that very few elected officials are truly trying to make a difference in their lives.
Sheri Soltes	No. This includes the way individuals are housed in correctional facilities. Intersex individuals should be housed in the gender-oriented facility of their choice and be protected from bullying and violence. Further, adoption, military service, right to marry, spousal insurance benefits, right to equal service from businesses.
Constable - PCT 1	
Tonya Nixon	The judicial system plays an important role in the fight for the rights of LGBT citizens. And while great strides have been made in the fight for equal rights in the LGBT community, there is plenty of work still to be done to address LGBT issues.
Janie Serna	There are always improvements that can be made to better ensure inclusivity, fairness, dignity, and respect for citizens in marginalized groups.
Constable - PCT 2	
Adan Ballesteros	No.
Constable - PCT 4	
George Morales	We like to think that Travis County does a good job but there are too many LGBTQIA citizens that lack representation and whose rights are not being defended. We need to have a better judicial system that takes care of our LGBTQIA community.