

Candidate Questionnaire Responses
State

January 8, 2020

Question 1	Do you wish to receive the endorsement of the Stonewall Democrats of Austin?
Railroad Commissioner Roberto Alonzo	Yes.
Chrysta Castaneda	Yes.
Kelly Stone SBOE - 5	Yes, that would be wonderful!
Rebecca Bell-Metereau	Yes I will be honored to have the endorsement of the Stonewall Democrats of Austin. I've received endorsements in the past from the Stonewall Democrats of San Antonio, and I look forward to speaking to your group. I'm a strong supporter of LGBTQIA rights. This field has been part of my academic work for decades.
Letti Bresnahan SBOE - 10	I wish to receive the endorsement of the Stonewall Democrats of Austin.
Marsha Burnett-Webster	Yes. I would be honored to receive the endorsement of the Stonewall Democrats of Austin.
State Senate - SD24 Clayton Tucker	Yes!
State Rep - HD45 Erin Zweiner	Yes.
State Rep - HD51 Eddie Rodriguez	Yes, I wish to receive the endorsement of the Stonewall Democrats of Austin.
State Rep - HD136 John Bucy	Yes, I would like to receive the endorsement of the Stonewall Democrats of Austin.

Question 2	Should you receive this endorsement, would you publicize our endorsement in your campaign advertisements and campaign literature?
Railroad Commissioner Roberto Alonzo	Yes.
Chrysta Castaneda	Yes. I will list endorsements on my website and other literature.
Kelly Stone	Yes, and I would also verbally share this at speaking engagements, include on my website, and possibly t-shirts.

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<p>SBOE - 5 Rebecca Bell-Metereau</p>	<p>I will include your endorsement on my website and any materials on which I list any endorsements. Some campaign materials do not include endorsements of any kind, but I will be proud to include your endorsement, if you choose to endorse me for State Board of Education District 5.</p>
<p>Letti Bresnahan</p>	<p>If I receive the endorsement of the Stonewall of Democrats of Austin, I would be honored to publicize the endorsement in my campaign advertisements and campaign literature.</p>
<p>SBOE - 10 Marsha Burnett-Webster</p>	<p>Yes. I would publicize your endorsement of me and my campaign to the maximum extent possible.</p>
<p>State Senate - SD24 Clayton Tucker</p>	<p>Yes!</p>
<p>State Rep - HD45 Erin Zweiner</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>State Rep - HD51 Eddie Rodriguez</p>	<p>Yes, I would be proud to receive this endorsement and my campaign would publicize</p>
<p>State Rep - HD136 John Bucy</p>	<p>Yes, I will include it in my campaign advertisements and literature. I intend to feature all such endorsements prominently on my website.</p>

Question 3	<p>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.</p>
<p>Railroad Commissioner Roberto Alonzo</p>	<p>For 20 years, as a State Representative and member of the Calendars Committee I have a history of supporting LGBTQIA. And also sponsored legislation.</p>
<p>Chrysta Castaneda</p>	<p>I represent LGBTQ+ clients in my law practice on a regular basis. I support equal rights for the LGBTQ+ community, including the rights to equal treatment in employment and to be free from discrimination. I have served on boards and in leadership positions of organizations focused on improving the lives of women. Just as women are historically under-represented in government, I support inclusive representation for LGBTQ+ Texans in government and public service.</p>

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Kelly Stone	My career as a health educator has very much focused on helping people to support, nurture, and advocate LGBTQIA folks (not just tolerate...ugh). I usually rely on the Riddle Scale to best explain this continuum. I have facilitated a large number of diversity and inclusion presentations, Allies workshops, and facilitated hundreds of hours of sexual health education, always through an inclusive perspective. I'm a bisexual woman, and my son also came out as gay this summer. I have 4 openly trans* folks working on my team, and we have several other folks who identify under the rainbow. Your endorsement would be important to me and my team as it would validate and underscore our grassroots campaign that gives voice to underrepresented and marginalized folks who need a commissioner who will fight for environmental justice.
SBOE - 5	
Rebecca Bell-Metereau	I have been an ally since 1985, when Columbia University Press published Hollywood Androgyny (a study of cross-dressing and sex role reversal in Hollywood film) and published a second edition in 1993. More recently, Rutgers University Press published my book, Transgender Cinema (2019), which was nominated for . I have taken the Allies Training at Texas State University and developed graduate and undergraduate seminars on gender and film. One of my goals as a member of the State Board of Education is to improve the sex education and history curriculum to include the history of gay rights and make the Stonewall Riot part of the history books. I also want a comprehensive and inclusive sex education curriculum that makes everyone free to participate and express themselves. This will include topics that the state will no doubt require that schools allow parents to have their children opt out, but at least this information will be made available in a revised curriculum.
Letti Bresnahan	I am seeking the endorsement of Stonewall because the role of the State Board of Education is to set policies and standards for Texas public schools which affects all Pre-Kinder through 12th grade students in our state, regardless of sexual orientation, identity, or expression. Education affects every single member of our society and I am proud to have served as a public school board member, primarily because our public schools are open to and accept everyone. During my tenure on the school board, we worked very hard to support and do what was best for all our students. In the 1990's I voted in favor of a proposition in Texas which would have legalized same sex civil unions. Most importantly, I treat all persons with respect and do not discriminate against anyone.

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SBOE - 10 Marsha Burnett-Webster	<p>I believe leaders at all levels of government and education have a responsibility to ensure that all citizens and students are treated fairly and equally, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation. As a classroom teacher, I stepped up to be the sponsor of a student LGBT Club at my school. As an administrator at another school, I helped develop and implement guidelines for establishment of school clubs, including those related to the LGBT community. Not only that, but knowing that it was important for LGBT clubs to be seen and respected throughout the school, I worked to integrate them into school extracurricular activities (e.g., school pep rallies). Needless to say, if elected to the State Board of Education, I will work to ensure that LGBT students and organizations receive fair and equal treatment at the state level as well. I believe this is what Stonewall Democrats are all about.</p>
State Senate - SD24 Clayton Tucker	<p>I'm a strong supporter of LGBTQIA+ rights. I've had many friends, colleagues and others I've met through my work share some of the struggles faced in their families, healthcare, and society in general. I've also worked with Our Revolution Texas in promoting healthcare for ALL, publicly supporting LGBTQIA+ issues in general and specifically met with PFLAG groups in the Beaumont/Golden Triangle area.</p>
State Rep - HD45 Erin Zweiner	<p>I am one of five founding members of the House LGBTQ caucus. We took the lead in fighting last session's "right to discriminate" bill.</p>
State Rep - HD51 Eddie Rodriguez	<p>I am seeking the endorsement of Stonewall because I believe that receiving this group's support speaks volumes about an individual's character and their position on extremely important issues related to civil rights. I have a history of publicly supporting LGBTQIA+ issues. As a member of the House Committee on State Affairs, I joined advocates in fighting against SB 6 and HB 3859 in the 85th Legislative Session. I fought against HB 3172 as a member of both the State Affairs and Calendars Committees in the 86th Legislative Session, and I supported HB 254 as a member of the State Affairs committee though it unfortunately did not receive a hearing. Equality Texas recognized my work with an A+ rating. I am also a proud member of the Texas House LGBTQ Caucus.</p>

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<p>State Rep - HD136</p> <p>John Bucy</p>	<p>I believe all Texans should be treated with the respect and dignity they deserve. I am proud to support the LGBTQIA+ community and would be honored to have the Stonewall Democrats of Austin's endorsement as part of my re-election campaign. Yes. I was the first ally member of the newly-formed Texas House LGBTQ Caucus. I opposed legislation that would have been harmful to the LGBTQIA+ community, was joint author of a resolution that would overturn the provisions in the Texas Constitution defining marriage as between a man and a woman (HJR 64), and co-authored legislation by Rep. Celia Israel that would protect LGBTQIA+ youth from conversion therapy (HB 517). I received an A+ from Equality Texas in their legislative scorecard. In my professional life, I run a youth sports league that is inclusive of trans athletes.</p>
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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?
<p>Railroad Commissioner</p> <p>Roberto Alonzo</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>Chrysta Castaneda</p>	<p>Yes. All persons should have equal rights and access to employment, housing and accommodations.</p>
<p>Kelly Stone</p>	<p>Isn't it sad that we are still having to fight for basic rights like this? I would absolutely support the prohibition of discrimination, and it truly saddens me that we have had a legislature that has spent so much time working against marriage equality a villainizing using the restroom.</p>
<p>SBOE - 5</p> <p>Rebecca Bell-Metereau</p>	<p>I am totally in support of non-discrimination laws, and although the SBOE does not legislate, I will work to educate, inform, and persuade the legislature of the necessity of equal rights for all, regardless of sex, gender, identification, orientation and expression. An individuals gender identity and expression are fundamental human rights, and the state has no right to prohibit free expression or to support or allow discrimination in employment, housing or public accommodation.</p>
<p>Letti Bresnahan</p>	<p>I would support a state law that prohibits discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression because everyone should be afforded equal protection of the law. We all should be treated equally and fairly.</p>

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<p>SBOE - 10 Marsha Burnett-Webster</p>	<p>Obviously the State Board of Education does not write or pass laws, but I would encourage and support lawmakers in writing and passing laws that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. To do otherwise is simply wrong. Various federal laws already prohibit such discrimination (e.g., Civil Rights Act of 1964, 1991; Title IX). However, many states are attempting to circumvent these laws. I would vehemently oppose those efforts.</p>
<p>State Senate - SD24 Clayton Tucker</p>	<p>Absolutely. Because these are fundamental rights under our constitution and there is no basis, legally or morally, for such discrimination. And because those rights have been denied all too often, there must be laws to clearly articulate such discrimination.</p>
<p>State Rep - HD45 Erin Zweiner</p>	<p>Yes, because all Texans deserve the right to work, to have a safe place to live, and to be treated with respect in public spaces.</p>
<p>State Rep - HD51 Eddie Rodriguez</p>	<p>Yes, I would support such a state law. I believe that employment, housing, and public accommodations are basic things that are necessary for people to flourish in our society. Sexual orientation and gender identity or expression have nothing to do with a person's ability to do a job well, be a good tenant, or affect their membership in our society and must not be allowed as bases for discrimination.</p>
<p>State Rep - HD136 John Bucy</p>	<p>Yes. While some jurisdictions have enacted these protections, we need a state law to ensure all Texans have equal access to public accommodations.</p>

<p>Question 5</p>	<p>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?</p>
<p>Railroad Commissioner Roberto Alonzo</p>	<p>Yes.</p>
<p>Chrysta Castaneda</p>	<p>Yes. This issue is not within the specific purview of the Railroad Commission, but I will look for specific ways that I can support these efforts as a Railroad Commissioner.</p>

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Kelly Stone	I have fought hard in this area as an educator in higher education. I have repeatedly had to defend my use of LGBTQIA-affirming language and lessons in my classroom, and this year, I was targeted and harassed for being deemed "too liberal" by a right-wing extremist organization. They implemented cyber-bullying in my class and targeted transphobic and white supremacist rhetoric. My university sided with the extremists and did not renew my teaching contract, and this ultimately led to my run. Yes, I would absolutely advocate and support this law.
SBOE - 5	
Rebecca Bell-Metereau	I will advocate for and support non-discrimination laws and laws against harassment of students and employees in the public schools, and although the SBOE does not legislate, I will work to educate, inform, and persuade the legislature of the necessity of equal rights for all, regardless of sex, gender, identification, orientation and expression. An individual's gender identity and expression are fundamental human rights, and the state has no right to prohibit free expression or to support or allow discrimination in employment.
Letti Bresnahan	I would 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.
SBOE - 10	
Marsha Burnett-Webster	Yes. As referenced in Q3, I have already been on the frontlines in protecting the rights of LGBT students in public schools. The same applies to protecting the rights of teachers and administrators in Texas public schools. Our focus must be on providing all students the best possible education - one that is well-rounded, based on sound academic principles, and void of unjustified prejudices. That is what our students deserve; that is what I believe in; and that is what I will forever support and advocate.
State Senate - SD24	
Clayton Tucker	Absolutely. Same reason a #4.
State Rep - HD45	
Erin Zweiner	Yes.
State Rep - HD51	
Eddie Rodriguez	Yes, I would advocate for and support such a state law. Schools are meant to be places of learning and should be free from discrimination. Discrimination against and harassment of LGBTQIA+ people have been normalized in our society for far too long, and it is up to all of us to demand better. We must ensure that our laws represent our values. Such a state law would send a strong message that discrimination against or harassment of students or teachers based on sexual orientation and gender identity or expression are unacceptable.

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<p>State Rep - HD136</p> <p>John Bucy</p>	<p>Yes. I would actively support the passage of such a state law. I believe it is important that our students have teachers who reflect their identities and everyone deserves a harassment-free workplace. Similarly, with what we know about how LGBTQIA+ youth face increased bullying, I do believe they need protection.</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>Railroad Commissioner</p> <p>Roberto Alonzo</p>	<p>I do not agree. As a TX Railroad Commissioner I would do what is right, and support LGBTQIA rights.</p>
<p>Chrysta Castaneda</p>	<p>I do not agree with the policy underlying the Texas decision. I will welcome staff from all backgrounds and orientations who will help achieve my priorities to enforce existing laws on flaring, cut methane emissions, and implement better water use and reuse policies. I will seek to maintain a work environment that embraces diversity and compensates employees equally.</p>
<p>Kelly Stone</p>	<p>No, this decision is outrageous and essentially purports a newer version of “separate but equal” form of discrimination. In my role as Railroad Commissioner, I would not be able to enact statewide laws regarding employee benefits, but I could work in to insure that as an agency, we are are treating our employees with equality, dignity and respect. I would also lead by example through the hiring of my staff and the visibility of our LGBTQIA-affirming safe space signage, etc.</p>
<p>SBOE - 5</p> <p>Rebecca Bell-Metereau</p>	<p>I think the court should hear the case, but I am also concerned that our current court may not decide in favor of equality and civil and personal rights. I believe that same-sex couples should have the same employee benefits as their straight counterparts. As a member of SBOE, I will always speak out in favor of equal rights for the LGBT community on every occasion. I am a strong life-long ally.</p>
<p>Letti Bresnahan</p>	<p>I do not agree with the decision, as I believe same-sex couples should be guaranteed the same employee benefits as their straight counterparts. I am supportive of fair treatment in matters of compensation for same-sex couples. The State Board of Education does not have jurisdiction over employee compensation and benefits.</p>

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<p>SBOE - 10 Marsha Burnett-Webster</p>	<p>I believe the U.S. Supreme Court erred in not hearing Obergefell v. Hodges. To rectify this discriminatory act, I will lobby our state legislators (and the governor) to pass laws that correct this blatant disregard for the equal treatment of same-sex couples and others who may be adversely affected. I would do the same with our federal legislators. Plus, I would work to ensure that only fair-minded judges are appointed to the judiciary - at the district, state and federal levels.</p>
<p>State Senate - SD24 Clayton Tucker</p>	<p>Same sex couples deserve EVERY right/benefit as any other couple. I will enact legislation to ensure same sex couples have these rights.</p>
<p>State Rep - HD45 Erin Zweiner</p>	<p>No. That decision was specific to government employers and could be easily negated with legislation. I would support such legislation but as of now, I am unaware of any test cases following that ruling.</p>
<p>State Rep - HD51 Eddie Rodriguez</p>	<p>I strongly disagree with the Texas Supreme Court's interpretation of Obergefell v. Hodges as it relates to employee benefits for same-sex couples. Marriage equality is the law of the land, and failing to treat same-sex marriages as equal to other marriages in all respects represents a violation of that law. I will continue to fight against efforts to allow Texas to ignore Supreme Court rulings that it doesn't like and explore legislative action to protect employee benefits for same-sex couples.</p>
<p>State Rep - HD136 John Bucy</p>	<p>I believe the Supreme Court should intervene to reverse this decision. In lieu of such, I am supportive of legislation to ensure that same-sex couples receive the same benefits as their straight counterparts.</p>

Question 7	<p>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?</p>
<p>Railroad Commissioner Roberto Alonzo</p>	<p>Yes and yes. And I would advocate and support such rights.</p>
<p>Chrysta Castaneda</p>	<p>Yes I support LGBT foster or adoptive parents having the same rights as heterosexual foster or adoptive parents. This issue is not within the specific purview of the Railroad Commission, but I will look for specific ways that I can support these efforts as a Railroad Commissioner.</p>

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<p>Kelly Stone</p>	<p>LET THEM ADOPT!!! Our foster care system is in crisis, and it's absolutely aggregious to prevent loving parents to adopt children simply because they are a same sex couple. There is no evidence that supports this stance, and I find it abhorent that our legislature permits this type of discrimination on the basis of religious freedoms. We have to work for the good of the children, so I would emphatically support laws that allows LGBT foster and adoptive parents to be granted the same rights and protections.</p>
<p>SBOE - 5 Rebecca Bell-Metereau</p>	<p>I will absolutely 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), and insofar as State Board of Education has any discussion of these issues, I will strongly advocate for and support such policies and the adoption of texts and literary works that include depictions of LGBT foster and adoptive parents.</p>
<p>Letti Bresnahan</p>	<p>I support LGBT foster or adoptive parents having the same rights and protections afforded under current law to heterosexual foster or adoptive parents and I support such a state law.</p>
<p>SBOE - 10 Marsha Burnett-Webster</p>	<p>Yes, I fully support the LGBT community in having the same rights as heterosexuals in fostering and adopting children. I would hope that common sense would prevail and that a state law prohibiting such discrimination would be unnecessary, but I recognize that it is in fact needed. So not only must new laws be passed, but old laws must be rescinded. I support and would be an advocate for this process.</p>
<p>State Senate - SD24 Clayton Tucker</p>	<p>Yes, and yes, absolutely.</p>
<p>State Rep - HD45 Erin Zweiner</p>	<p>Yes and yes.</p>
<p>State Rep - HD51 Eddie Rodriguez</p>	<p>Yes, I support LGBT foster or adoptive parents having the same rights and protections afforded under current law to heterosexual foster or adoptive parents, and I would advocate for and support such a state law. I fought against HB 3859 in the 85th Legislative Session. I continue to believe that such "license to discriminate" legislation is unnecessary and that the law should be repealed.</p>
<p>State Rep - HD136 John Bucy</p>	<p>Yes. I would actively support the passage of such a state law. As someone who is soon to be a parent, I cannot imagine not having equal rights. I also believe we need to do more to protect the rights of LGBTQIA+ youth in our foster care system.</p>

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Question 8	If elected, what concrete actions would you take to support the Intersex community?
Railroad Commissioner Roberto Alonzo	As elected officials all voices are heard, and I would do such as I have done in the past.
Chrysta Castaneda	This issue is not within the specific purview of the Railroad Commission, but I will look for specific ways that I can support these efforts. I will work to support non-discrimination and equal employment protection for all persons seeking employment at the Commission.
Kelly Stone	My response really conflates supporting the trans community and supporting the intersex community. I believe that using inclusive language is paramount to normalizing how we talk to one another and make assumptions about gender. One in 2,000 babies are born intersex or with ambiguous genitals, and I will never not talk about the horrifying practice of mutilating their bodies for the sake of checking a gender box. I would make sure to add "other" the TRC's forms.
SBOE - 5 Rebecca Bell-Metereau	I will propose revisions to curriculum from science, biology, history, and literature to sex education and any other field that touches on the rights and lives of LGBT community members, children, employees, citizens, and immigrants.
Letti Bresnahan	If elected as a State Board member, I will work to ensure that our public educational system equips ALL students with the knowledge and skills necessary for college and careers. I will work to ensure a comprehensive PK-12 curriculum that is factual, objective, thorough, and supported by high quality instructional materials for All students. I will work to ensure that Texas public school educators are skilled, exceptionally trained and prepared to meet the needs of ALL students.
SBOE - 10 Marsha Burnett-Webster	The intersex community must be included in our society, not ostracized from it. I support and advocate providing them with a wide-range of services to ensure they are able to make informed decisions about their identity and health. This includes individual and group counseling, access to peer support, affordable healthcare options (including surgical and medication), and access to public facilities. In no way should they be subjected to discriminatory policies.
State Senate - SD24 Clayton Tucker	I would support or co-sponsor legislation to prohibit gender assignment surgery until the child is old enough to give clearly informed consent. I would also support or co-sponsor legislation to provide accurate information and education regarding the frequency and lived experiences of intersex peoples to combat existing stigma.

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<p>State Rep - HD45 Erin Zweiner</p>	<p>Support legislation to create a non-binary legal identification. Support legislation to ban or reduce cosmetic genital surgeries on infants and young children.</p>
<p>State Rep - HD51 Eddie Rodriguez</p>	<p>Members of the Intersex community have not received the support or awareness that they deserve, given how much we have to learn from them when discussing LGBTQIA+ issues. In order to be the most effective ally possible, I would reach out to leaders in the Intersex community and ask them what support they need (in the legislature or community) and make a point to elevate members of the community in the legislative process to ensure their experiences are reflected in our work.</p>
<p>State Rep - HD136 John Bucy</p>	<p>I would support legislation that would allow for non-binary driver's licenses to be issued as well as making it easier to change birth certificates and other documents. I would also support inclusion in comprehensive, non-discrimination legislation and am committed to opposing legislation harmful to the Intersex community. I would be interested in learning more about what can be done to be supportive from a legislative standpoint.</p>

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?
<p>Railroad Commissioner Roberto Alonzo</p>	<p>No. I advocate judges to be sensitive for rights and dignity of LGBTQIA citizens.</p>
<p>Chrysta Castaneda</p>	<p>My work with the judicial system suggests that much is left to the discretion of the individual elected judges. I will work to support the election of Democratic judges who support these rights.</p>
<p>Kelly Stone</p>	<p>Not in the least. Our judicial system (and I fear how much worse it is/will be after the 128+ Trump appointments) seems to have lost its concern for the rights and dignity of not only our LGBTQIA citizens but also people of color, immigrants, and assylum seekers.</p>
<p>SBOE - 5 Rebecca Bell-Metereau</p>	<p>I do not think the judicial system is responding adequately; I believe they are skirting the issue, refusing to follow constitutional rights and are overly influenced by niche groups who have their own beliefs. LGBTQIA citizens should have full and equal rights and dignity.</p>

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Letti Bresnahan	I believe the legal system is the most effective way to support the rights and dignity of our LGBTQIA citizens, especially if the legislature is not advancing these causes. I do believe, however, that there is always room for positive progress and improvement for our LGBTQIA citizens.
SBOE - 10 Marsha Burnett-Webster	Unfortunately, no. Traditionally, Texas has been a conservative voting state. With judges having to be elected every four years, judges (like politicians) likely consider their electability too much when making judicial decisions. As a result, they probably tend to rule in line with the perceived 'will of the people' vs. what is right in terms of our living Constitution. Beyond electing open-minded judges, I am not sure how to solve this problem.
State Senate - SD24 Clayton Tucker	The courts have helped in some instances, but they need to do more.
State Rep - HD45 Erin Zweiner	No. Many LGBTQIA individuals are reluctant to report crimes because of the fear of mistreatment by law enforcement. Incarcerated transgender individuals may be housed with people of the gender they were assigned at birth instead of the gender they identify with and called by their dead name in court proceedings. Guards at incarceration facilities are often not responsive to the abuse experienced by LGBTQIA inmates.
State Rep - HD51 Eddie Rodriguez	I do not think that the judicial system is doing everything it can to be sensitive to the rights and dignity of our LGBTQIA+ citizens. Research has found that LGBTQIA+ citizens face discrimination by law enforcement and in the prison system where they are overrepresented. Clearly, much work needs to be done to better understand and address the structural forces at work. Trans women especially deserve better treatment and more sensitive accommodation in our judicial system.
State Rep - HD136 John Bucy	We need to examine legislative solutions to ensure equal access to justice. There is too much variation from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, for example, with respect to changing one's gender marker. In addition, many youth who enter the criminal justice system come from vulnerable backgrounds, such as the LGBTQIA+ community, and we need to support policies and programs that divert them from jail and connect them to services to disrupt cycles of incarceration.