



LUPE VALDEZ
DEMOCRAT

Email: info@lupevaldez.com
Website: www.lupevaldez.com
Facebook: [LupeForTexas](#)

Residence: Dallas

Current Job/Profession: Former Sheriff, Dallas County; Captain in the U.S. Army; Federal Agent

Education: Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration – Southern Nazarene University
Master's Degree in Criminology – University of Texas - Arlington

About Lupe Valdez (www.lupevaldez.com):

In 2004, Lupe Valdez shook the political establishment in Dallas County, becoming one of the first Democrats elected countywide in many years. Lupe was ultimately elected to four terms as Sheriff of Dallas County and served from 2005-2017. She was the only Latina Sheriff in the United States and one of very few LGBTQ Americans serving in public office. Prior to becoming Sheriff, Valdez served at home and abroad as a captain in the U.S. Army and as a federal agent.

The daughter of migrant farmworkers and the youngest child in a family of ten -- Valdez learned the value of a strong work ethic and the opportunity that comes with education. Educar para elevar, educate to elevate, are words she has lived by. She put herself through college to earn a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Southern Nazarene University, sometimes working two jobs to pay for her education. Later, while working as a federal agent, she completed her Master's in Criminology from UT-Arlington.

As a federal agent and sometimes undercover, Valdez investigated fraud and abuse in the United States and money laundering from criminal organizations in South America.

While Sheriff, Valdez worked diligently to address deep structural problems that had developed over the preceding 20 years. The county jail was understaffed, overpopulated, and unsanitary. With her team and the leadership of the County Commissioners, she succeeded in tackling many of the challenges that had plagued the Department such as improving the quality of care for mentally ill inmates, changing culture, and striving to ensure any individual touched by the criminal justice system was treated with respect and dignity.

Positions on LGBT Issues (www.lupevaldez.com):

What I Believe:

Being gay is only part of who I am -- but it's a part that I am immensely proud of and a community that I am honored to represent. We have made much progress, but the fight for equality in the modern era is far from over. It is outrageous that in many parts of Texas, you can still be married on Saturday, evicted on Sunday, and fired on Monday, all because of who you love. As your governor, I will fight for equality for our community.



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What I Will Do:

As governor, I will fight to protect the rights, dignity, and lives of trans Texans and all members of our LGBTQ community. This includes a more comprehensive nondiscrimination protections, equal pay, access to culturally competent healthcare and a repeal of unconstitutional provisions from Texas Statute; Amend to Reflect Marriages of Same-Sex Couples.

GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate did not respond.



**VOTER GUIDE
GOVERNOR
FALL, 2018**



GREG ABBOTT

REPUBLICAN

Email:

info@gregabbott.com

Website:

www.gregabbott.com

Facebook:

TexansForAbbott

Residence: Austin

Current Job/Profession: Governor; Previously Texas Attorney General and Justice on the Texas Supreme Court

Education: B.B.A. in Finance – University of Texas at Austin
J.D. – Vanderbilt University Law School

Protecting Religious Liberty (www.gregabbott.com)

Championing the conservative values and religious liberties that define Texans, Greg Abbott fights for the principles of faith, family and freedom to make Texas a better place to live and raise a family.

Greg Abbott successfully defended the constitutionality of the Ten Commandments on the Texas Capitol grounds all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. He also represented all 50 states in defending the words “One Nation, Under God” in our Pledge of Allegiance, and in defending prayer during the Presidential Inauguration ceremony.

As Governor, Greg Abbott defended pastors’ rights to speak freely about their faith by signing the Pastor Protection Act.

Actions on LGBT Issues:

Signed House Bill 3859 which allows faith-based groups working with the Texas child welfare system to deny services "under circumstances that conflict with the provider's sincerely held religious beliefs." |

Signed on to a Friend-of-the-Court Brief which urged the Texas Supreme Court to revive a lawsuit that seeks to abolish employee benefits the city of Houston provides to married same-sex couples.

As Attorney General, in a brief filed with the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, Abbott said “Because same-sex relationships do not naturally produce children, recognizing same-sex marriage does not further these goals to the same extent that recognizing opposite-sex marriage does.”

Tweet from Greg Abbott following the Obergefell decision which made gay marriage lawful: "Marriage was defined by God. No man can redefine it. We will defend our religious liberties."

GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate did not respond.



MARK TIPPETTS

LIBERTARIAN

Email: campaign@mark4gov.com

Website: www.mark4gov.com

Facebook: [mark4gov](https://www.facebook.com/mark4gov)

Residence: Lago Vista, TX

Current Job/Profession: International Legal & Business Consultant

Education: Bachelor of Law & Master of Administration - Universidad Abierta, San Luis Potosi, Mexico

Highlight of Current Civic Involvement/Accomplishments:

Served on the Lago Vista City Council

Why are you running for office?

The current Governor is allowing the federal government to usurp Constitutional powers that erode our sovereignty on a daily basis. He does nothing to protect and defend the sovereignty of Texas. Texas needs a Governor that will, at all costs, regain our sovereignty and defend Texas from federal overreach.

The 2017 legislative session was dominated by the “bathroom bill” debate. Do you believe the state should require people to use the bathroom designated for the biological sex listed on their birth certificate?

NO this should be a local issue.

Positions on LGBT Issues

Personal Freedom and Civil Liberties - Rights of Individuals, Children, and Families

Speech

I uphold the ideals embodied in the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States; specifically, that government should not interfere in matters of personal conscience, such as religion, speech, creativity, or political activity; nor should any majority be allowed to use government power or support to force the minority to accept their moral, religious, or political beliefs.

I call for an end to so-called “free speech zones,” which are in reality a means of isolating and silencing dissent in the public arena. Public officials have no right to be insulated from the voice of opposition to their policies.

Religion

I support the principle of separation of church and state, and that there is no freedom of religion without freedom from religion. I oppose government funding or endorsement of any religious or nonreligious position over any other. I call for strict supervision of how government payments or tax subsidies to all religious organizations are used, to insure they are not used to support indoctrination.



Self-Defense

Self-defense is an inherent individual right and must not be restricted or impeded. Therefore, I support the right of individuals to keep and bear arms in a manner consistent with the Non-Aggression Principle.

Equality Under the Law

I support the full and complete protection of all people from biased legislation that violates individual rights. I believe government does not have legitimate authority to define or restrict personal relationships or associations to any group of people. I believe that "Hate Crime" legislation is unconstitutional, and that our nation has prospered under the concept of "equal protection under the law."

Marriage and Domestic Partnership

I believe that marriage should be a matter of private contract and should not be defined or licensed by government. I believe that government should not treat individuals differently based on their marital status.

Family Values

Government has no business defining what a family is or what values a family should hold. I believe the government's only role in a family should be to preserve and protect their liberty in pursuit of happiness as they choose in accordance with the Non-Aggression principle.

Parental/Guardian Rights

Legal rights of parents/guardians must not be infringed on by the state based upon unsubstantiated claims, without due process.

GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate did not respond.