



LAURA GUNN

DEMOCRAT

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Residence: Frisco, Texas

Current Job/Profession: Stay at home parent. Previously worked at Collin College in the Art Department

Education: Bachelor of Arts – The Ohio State University

Highlight of Current Civic Involvement/Accomplishments:

I have been a stay at home parent since 2005. The majority of my civic duties have been work on political campaigns as a volunteer, charitable donations for organizations that are close to my heart, volunteering at the SPCA with my older daughter, and activities with my younger daughter as they relate to the Girl Scouts organization. I served on my HOA for over 3 years.

Why are you running for office?

My family chose to make this community our home, and I'm committed to ensuring that its unique character, welcoming nature, and economic prosperity are safeguarded from extremist agendas. . To be successful, we must learn how to work together on things that matter to ALL Texans ... good schools, good jobs, and a good quality of life.

Specifically, I'm running for this office to save our public education system from attacks on funding and teachers. Our children's futures and our state's economic prosperity and workforce depend upon quality education for ALL children. The state legislature's decreased funding, discussion of vouchers (or other programs with the same outcomes), and refusal to compensate teachers fairly risks our children's futures and our business community's growth and ability to encourage new businesses to relocate to our state.

In addition, state leadership's refusal to ensure that Texans have access to affordable healthcare means families, including seniors and children, risk losing their homes and their livelihoods when they are their most vulnerable due to health crises. And finally, state leaders failed to plan and invest in a strong infrastructure, and, here in Collin County, we are now 15-20 years behind where we should be in preparing for steadily increasing population growth.

Our district deserves a new, thoughtful leader who takes into consideration the needs of ALL Texans. Our district deserves transparency in legislation, an open-door policy for residents, and the hard work required to create positive change for Collin County.

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?

I don't think about people going to the bathroom. Becoming transgender is about having your body match your brain. It's deeply personal and is nobody's business.



GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

During the last legislative session, Texas passed the Freedom to Serve Children Act which allows foster homes and adoption agencies, including those that receive public funds, to choose to only place children in homes with a mother and father. This coming session we anticipate once again seeing “Religious Liberty” bills which offer protection to businesses that deny services such as counseling, wedding planning, etc. to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Texans when based on “sincerely held religious beliefs.” Would you support such legislation? If so, please explain your justification of the expenditure of state funds defending such a law, as several similar laws are already actively involved in court cases and have been found to be discriminatory and unconstitutional? If you do not support such a proposal, please explain how you would justify your decision to a business that doesn’t wish to provide a specific service, such as baking a wedding cake, to an LGBT individual.

Single Adults of any gender who pass the criteria for a home study in my opinion are qualified to foster a child of any gender. This country was founded on the separation of church and state. Generosity, kindness, compassion and wisdom are universal. I don't support legislation based solely on the purpose of repressing the LGBT. This does not serve my community, is frivolous, self serving and creates ill will. Any business that chooses to exclude LGBT from it's services, will suffer the natural consequences in our community as it is morally unacceptable to be racist.

A recent study by the National Center of Transgender Equality found that 82% of transgender youth feel unsafe at school and 44% report having been physically abused. This coming legislative session, we anticipate that we will once again see the introduction of a “Bathroom Bill” which requires transgender students use the bathroom that matches their sex assigned at birth. Would you support such legislation? If you support such legislation, what steps would you include to ensure that transgender children are not bullied or physically attacked when they enter a bathroom? If you oppose such legislation, how would you explain your stance to a constituent concerned about their child's right to privacy in the school bathroom?

Under the law, one will not conduct themselves with impunity. There will be consequences. First of all, it is a violation of privacy to out someone as transgender. There needs to be accommodations for the students. Merely having a bathroom available to everyone would solve this issue. I am baffled that this is even an issue as transgender is biological and not a choice.

During the last legislative session, the State Legislature attempted to pass a record number of bills considered anti-LGBT. Several states that have passed similar anti-LGBT laws have faced business boycotts. Conversely, cities/municipalities wanting to be more attractive to business relocations, have passed Equal Rights Ordinances (EROs). These ordinances typically prohibit discrimination in city employment and city services, city contracts, public accommodations, private employment, and housing based on an individual's sex, race, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, familial status, marital status, military status, religion, disability, sexual orientation, genetic information, gender identity/expression or pregnancy. Do you support the right of local governments to pass EROs? Please explain your position.

Again, nobody is biologically perfect. Our brains are wired differently, and it is as simple as a random sperm and egg. Nobody is textbook perfect, and the beauty of life is that in spite of that our bodies function. People need to not be so egocentric, threatened by things that really don't impact their lives. As long as a person is capable and kind, there should be no barrier to them contributing to society. I support any legislation that protects an individual's right to the pursuit of happiness.

What would you like LGBT constituents and our families and friends to know about you as a candidate? Why should this large voting community support your candidacy?

Yes please. I support the LGBT community. I am a secular candidate and an advocate for women's reproductive rights and the right for an individual to identify as they please.



VOTER GUIDE
STATE REP. - DISTRICT 33
FALL, 2018



JUSTIN HOLLAND

REPUBLICAN

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Residence: Rockwall, Texas

Current Job/Profession: Realtor

Education: -

Meet Justin (www.justinholland.org):

Justin Holland was first sworn in to the Texas House of Representatives on January 10, 2017, representing Texas House District 33, which includes Rockwall County and portions of Collin County.

Justin has a servant heart and a proven conservative record. Throughout his first session in the Texas House, Justin supported the ban on sanctuary cities, filed legislation protecting the private property rights of Texans, passed pro-Second Amendment legislation and voted against tax and fee increases so that hardworking Texans can keep more of their hard-earned dollars.

A sixth-generation Rockwall native and REALTOR® since 2006, Justin grew up in a hardworking, and self-reliant family. Justin learned at an early age the value of personal responsibility and dedication in business from his father, Lance Holland. Justin's father also taught him that giving back to the community and always acting in the best interest of your customers are the keys to success—both in business and life. Justin, along with business partner Leighton Pinkham purchased the family business on January 2, 2014. Guided by these lessons, Justin operates Regal Realtors as co-owner and helped lead the family real estate business to being named "Small Business Partner of the Year" in 2014-15 by the Rockwall Area Chamber of Commerce.

Highlight of Current Civic Involvement/Accomplishments:

In the community, Justin previously served five years as a member of the Heath City Council – two years elected as Mayor Pro Tem. He is a member of Rockwall Rotary Club, a 2014 graduate of Leadership Rockwall, former Vice President of the Heath Economic Development and Municipal Benefits Corporations, an endowed member of East Trinity Lodge #157, a member of the Rockwall Republican Men's Club, a former member of the City of Heath Special Events Board, a volunteer for Rockwall County Relay for Life, past director of the Rockwall ISD Education Foundation and an active volunteer for Rockwall County Helping Hands.

- 100% Pro-life Voting Record – Texas Right to Life
- Courageous Conservative – Texas Conservative Coalition
- Effective Conservative – Conservative Roundtable of Texas
- Honorary Membership Award – Rockwall County Republican Women
- A Most Valuable Legislator – Texas Association of Community Schools
- 100% voting record – National Federation of Independent Business
- Independent Award – Texas Independent Auto Dealers Association
- Collin College Medallion Recipient – Collin College, for work on 4-year nursing degree legislation
- Thanksgiving Certificate – Taking Care of Texas & People with Disabilities – Reach Inc.



**VOTER GUIDE
STATE REP. - DISTRICT 33
FALL, 2018**

Legislative History on LGBT Issues:

Rep. Holland supported all major anti-LGBT legislation during the 2017 Legislative Session.

GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate did not respond.