



**RAY ASH**  
**DEMOCRAT**

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**Residence:** Murphy, Texas

**Current Job/Profession:** Certified Public Accountant and Tax Attorney, Private Practice

**Education:** B.S. in Business Administration – Rider University; J.D. from Texas Southern University

**Highlight of Current Civic Involvement/Accomplishments:**

Co-Founder of Murphy Chamber of Commerce  
Co-Author of Murphy Home Rule City Charter  
Former Prosecutor in Municipal Court  
State Delegate for Barack Obama - 2008  
National Delegate for Barack Obama - 2012  
Precinct Chair for Collin County Democratic Party  
Election Poll Worker and / or Election Judge in all Collin County Elections  
Veteran United States Army / Vietnam War

**Why are you running for office?**

I am running for this office because I want to protect voter's rights, and equal access to justice for all citizens. I believe in DACA and a pathway to citizenship via Immigration Law reform. I want to improve the economic development in District 89 with attention paid to infrastructure while maintaining the quality of life in these areas. I am concerned about the safety of our children in schools and citizens elsewhere because of gun violence. I want to fight for teachers and their pensions and healthcare; and also improve the State's Public-School Finance System. I want to relieve the property tax burden of home ownership in Texas in general and District 89 in particular.

**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?**

According to the executive director of the Governor's Office of Economic Development and Tourism, "the proposed "bathroom bill" legislation made his job more difficult to lure business to Texas."

I agree with that assessment; the "bathroom bill" is just another manufactured social issue that diverts the legislative attention away from genuine and pressing concerns such as reformation of the public-school finance system, genuine property tax relief, and health care issues.



## 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.**

No, I believe that no person should be denied services which are available to the general public, based upon his or her race, creed, color of skin, gender, or gender identification / expression.

Every day we have opportunities to interact with people who come from different backgrounds and share different opinions. None is more valid than the other. Our country protects the rights of individuals to be served in businesses without judgement or discrimination.

**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?**

The "Bathroom Bill" is a manufactured social issue that works as a distraction from more pressing issues such as school safety, public school financing and the related property taxes, as well as health care for all. I would never support such a bill.

The key to responding to hot button issues with constituents is to create a productive dialogue to understand their concerns and fears. I would also share this simple fact: preventing gender based discrimination does not lead to crime in public restrooms.

**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.**

I support the right of local governments to pass ERO's because they are generally good for the businesses in the areas they serve; and further, because I am a firm supporter in local control whenever feasible.

**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?**

I firmly stand with you as an ally. I will listen and learn from your community and give you a seat at the table.



**CANDY NOBLE**

**REPUBLICAN**

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**Residence:** Lucas, Texas

**Current Job/Profession:** Volunteer/Investments

**Education:** Bachelor of Education – Hardin-Simmons University

**Highlight of Current Civic Involvement/Accomplishments:**

Texas Juvenile Justice Board, Public Member appointed by Governor Greg Abbott  
Hardin-Simmons University Board of Development, Alumni Co-chair  
Prestonwood Baptist Church Culture Impact Team, Executive Advisory Board  
Golden Corridor Republican Women, Chaplain  
Member, National Association of Parliamentarians  
Collin County Child Protective Services Board  
Collin County Parks and Open Spaces Board  
Chairman, Texas Electoral College, 2016  
Hardin-Simmons University Board of Young Associates, President  
Director, Prestonwood Baptist Food Pantry/Clothes Closet (17 years, Volunteer)  
Moms In Touch Leader (11 years, leader for 4 different schools)  
PTSA active volunteer  
Speaker's Tournament Coach  
State Republican Executive Committee, Senate District 8 2010-2018  
Collin County GOP Precinct Chair and Parliamentarian  
Collin County Council on Family Violence  
Hardin-Simmons University Presidential Search Committee

**Why are you running for office?**

I care deeply about our state and nation, and I am willing to stand up and fight for the future of my kids and grandkids. We must ensure that Texas enjoys a prosperous future. I will work to ensure great schools, property tax relief, secure borders, and honest, transparent government. I am guided by my core beliefs of limited government, dedication to fiscal responsibility, and a commitment to the protection of the unborn and the helpless.

**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?**

As the mother of daughters and granddaughters I am concerned with both the safety and privacy of those in any area of our government buildings where there is no security or cameras (and rightly so). I would support any way that we can make those vulnerable areas safer and secure for all who use those facilities.



**GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

Candidate did not respond.