



**COLIN ALLRED**

**DEMOCRAT**

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**Residence:** Dallas

**Current Job/Profession:** Civil Rights Attorney

**Education:** B. A. in History – Baylor University; J.D.- University of California, Berkley School of Law

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

I have formed a close relationship with Chad Houser and his kids at Cafe Momentum, where I have spoken to the kids on several occasions and helped Mr. Houser raise funds for his critically important work. I was also honored to give the keynote speech at the YMCA of Texas Youth and Government District Conference. I am a constant presence, mentor, and speaker at my alma mater, Hillcrest High School. I have also taught classes or delivered speeches to numerous camps, like the Community Youth Leadership Camp, and at schools, like Greenhill School.

My wife and I are also active volunteers and have volunteered with Hunger Busters, a local organization that provides meals to kids in DISD, Vogel Alcove, and at our church--Greenland Hills United Methodist Church. In addition, I have been asked to help judge the University of Texas at Dallas Big Idea Competition and to speak to a political science class at SMU.

Finally, in addition to being members at Greenland Hills, I am a member of the Dallas Bar Association, the Dallas NAACP and the JL Turner Legal Association.

Growing up here in Dallas I was an active volunteer and was named the Volunteer of the Year twice at the Town North YMCA. I have personally registered dozens of voters in this area, including at Hillcrest High School and other Dallas public schools, and worked with local groups to help them register hundreds more. I have also been an active mentor of numerous kids and have been heavily involved in charitable activities during my NFL career, ranging from the NFL's Play 60 initiative to forming lasting friendships with kids fighting cancer.

**Why are you running for office?**

It's time for new leadership and fresh ideas in Congress. North Texas is my home, where I was born and raised by a single mother who was a teacher in Dallas public schools. Growing up here, we struggled financially, and things were never easy, but I was able to chase my dreams because of the incredible support I received from the people of this area. I went to good Dallas public schools—graduating from Hillcrest High School—spent my evenings, summers, and school breaks at great YMCA camps, and was helped by so many unsung heroes who went above and beyond the call of duty to give a kid who didn't know his father a chance to chase his version of the American Dream. That support gave me the platform I needed to play in the NFL, to become a civil rights attorney, and to work for the President of the United States.

Stories like mine shouldn't be unique. If you have the drive, and put in the work, you should be able to chase your dreams in North Texas. I'm running for Congress to be their champion and to restore the fundamental promise of the American Dream here in North Texas and across this country.



**VOTER GUIDE  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPS. - DISTRICT 32  
FALL, 2018**

**Do you expect the Supreme Court will revisit the gay marriage decision from 2015 if a case challenging gay marriage reaches its review? Should it?**

The Supreme Court should not reconsider this decision. Committed couples, regardless of who they love, should have equal rights and responsibilities and here in North Texas, thousands of people's marriages are now legally recognized thanks to the Court's decision. We should be doing everything we can to promote stable, committed relationships and I'm glad that LGBTQ Americans can now share fully in the tradition of marriage.

**GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

Candidate did not respond.



**VOTER GUIDE**  
**U.S. HOUSE OF REPS. - DISTRICT 32**  
**FALL, 2018**



**PETE SESSIONS**  
**REPUBLICAN**

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**Residence:** Dallas

**Current Job/Profession:** U.S. Congressman

**Education:** B.S.S. in Political Science – Southwestern University

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

I am an honorary member of the Rotary, the National Eagle Scout Association's national committee, the Executive Board of the Circle Ten Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and proudly hold a seat on the Southwestern University Board of Trustees. I am also an adviser to the President of Special Olympics Texas, an Adopt-A-Shoreline Team Leader in the effort to maintain White Rock Lake Park, and a member of Highland Park United Methodist Church.

As an Eagle Scout, the importance of civic involvement and community service was instilled in me at a young age. Early in my career, I volunteered for the U.S. Junior Chamber, also known as Jaycees, where I mentored young students in businesses development, management skills, and community service. I was also a Scout Master for the Boy Scouts of America and served as the Chairman of the Northeast Dallas Chamber of Commerce.

**Why are you running for office?**

I am running for Congress because I want to continue to make life better for all North Texans by creating opportunities for hard working North Texans, growing our economy, and securing a better future for our families.

**Do you expect the Supreme Court will revisit the gay marriage decision from 2015 if a case challenging gay marriage reaches its review? Should it?**

Although I understand people may view the issue of marriage differently, like many of my constituents, I support the preservation of traditional marriage as it had been defined in the United States for more than 200 years before the 2015 Obergefell v. Hodges Supreme Court decision: a union between one man and one woman.

I do not support the courts setting such a far-reaching policy without any true input from the American people or continued debate on the issue in Congress or on the state level. Additionally, I remain concerned that the 2015 decision may have unintended consequences on other freedoms explicitly guaranteed by the Constitution, including the freedom of religious expression and the powers afforded to states under the Tenth Amendment.-

**GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

Candidate did not respond.





**MELINA BAKER**

**LIBERTARIAN**

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**Residence:** Jacksonville, TX

**Current Job/Profession:** Bookkeeper for a small seminary

**Education:** B.B.A. – Stephen F. Austin State University

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

I have been active in Boy Scouting for 15 years and I am still involved as a Merit Badge Counselor, a Unit Committee Member, wife of a scoutmaster, and grandmother of a future Eagle Scout. I'm active in my church. I am the County Chair of the Libertarian Party of Cherokee County.

I coached soccer for ten years, both boys and girls aged 4-20. Coordinated the local Coats for Kids drive for five years. Volunteered as a Literacy Tutor for two years. Directed a Performing Arts Camp for kids one summer. Served as Assistant to the Director in the local theatre for the production of Elf Jr. I've taught Sunday School for ten years. I served as the Treasurer of the Libertarian Party of Texas.

**Why are you running for office?**

Because I believe we should be striving toward less law rather than more, and we should minimize the reach of the federal government, moving control to the lowest possible level of government while maximizing personal autonomy. Persons should feel free to do as they wish with their own resources and their own bodies, as long as their actions don't infringe on the autonomy of others - and when it does, that's when the government should step in.

We should respect the role and importance of business on our economy and break down tax walls that lead to inhibition of business-like manufacturing.

**Do you expect the Supreme Court will revisit the gay marriage decision from 2015 if a case challenging gay marriage reaches its review? Should it?**

I feel certain it will be revisited at some time and I believe it should. Again, government has no place in the subject of marriage. Marriage is a covenant entered into with God, and as such, government has no place saying what is or is not a marriage. The only portion of marriage that is relevant to government is the part that involves contractual obligations - obligations that any individual should be able to enter into with another individual without calling it marriage.



## GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

**“Religious Liberty” bills offer protection to businesses that deny services such as counseling, wedding planning, etc. to LGBT+ individuals when based on “sincerely held religious beliefs.” Would you support such legislation? Please explain your answer.**

I don't support any legislation regarding how private businesses do business. I believe private businesses should be permitted to serve the public as they see fit (which may include denying services to anyone for any reason) with the understanding that all citizens are empowered to exercise their own voice by choosing where they will spend their money and are further free to work to persuade others to join with them in speaking with their money.

**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. “Bathroom Bills” which require transgender students to use the bathroom that matches their sex assigned at birth have been proposed in many states. Would you support guidance or regulation at the federal level to resolve this issue? Please explain your position.**

I don't believe federal regulation will end hatred. Bathrooms are a place that many youth are abused, regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation - my son was a case in point, as bullies often chose to pick on him in the bathroom, out of sight of authority figures, because he was overweight and intelligent. I believe schools should be safe havens for every child regardless of their circumstance and if they are unable to provide safe bathrooms or other private areas, they should be able to offer a single-stall option. I also believe that bullying and abuse should not lie in the hands of the school to address but should be a matter for law enforcement and I believe the penalties for violence in a "safe haven" should be stiff and unwavering. I do not claim to have all the answers for such a complex issue, but I do know that together we can find a solution if we approach any problem with understanding and compassion for those who suffer at the hands of others.

**An Employment Non-Discrimination Act including sexual orientation and gender identity/expression has been introduced in the House several times. Would you support such legislation? Please explain your answer.**

This is a rare case in which I support legislation. As a Human Resources-certified professional, I recognize that many hiring managers are unable to separate their personal opinions from their professional responsibilities and such legislation is helpful to form guidelines and boundaries that level the playing field so that candidates are judged on their professional/skills merits and not on matters of a personal nature.

**GALA offers candidates the unique opportunity to address thousands of members of the North Texas LGBT community. 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 believe matters of sexual inclination are personal and private and it is the privilege of the individual to disclose or discuss their own sense of identity as they see fit. Assumptions should not be made about character or abilities or personality based on anything other than personal interaction, not on appearance or rumor or predisposed ideas. Every person deserves a certain amount of respect until they demonstrate they are unworthy by their own actions. Empathy and compassion should be watchwords in dealing with our fellow man, respecting the difficulties and triumphs of each person's journey.