



LINSEY FAGAN

DEMOCRAT

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Residence: Keller

Current Job/Profession: Search Engine Optimization Consultant

Education: I left college after two years to start my own business. After identifying a gap in higher education for eCommerce, I built a company from the ground up - and threw myself into that 100%. Although I didn't finish college, I continued to broaden my education by utilizing MOOCs (massive open online courses). I served as guest instructor of marketing in the Communications Department at UT Arlington, where I taught paid search and search engine optimization.

Highlight of Current Civic Involvement/Accomplishments:

One of the accomplishments I'm most proud of is the network of amazing, dedicated people we have been able to pull together over the past year, and not just on my campaign. We have recruited candidates to run in Denton and Collin Counties, shared the knowledge we've acquired with them, and trained, mentored and supported candidates across the nation. And all without a dime of PAC money.

Everything we have accomplished is all completely supported by grassroots efforts. I've been endorsed by Brand New Congress and Justice Democrats. I'm involved in Indivisible groups, a number of Democratic clubs & progressive groups.

In the past two years I have served as a delegate to the Texas Democratic Convention and the Young Democrats of America National Conference. I've also worked as a hospice volunteer and am a regular donor to charities that care for veterans, children, refugees and the LGBTQ+ community.

Why are you running for office?

I'm running because, like many people, I felt that my representatives were not really representing US anymore. It wasn't the career path that I had planned, but I was struck by how desperately we need compassionate, pragmatic and fearless leaders who are in touch with everyday Americans to fix what is broken in this country. I am tired of being terrified of what my daughter's future will look like. I'm running because I want to help, and I want to make a difference.

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?

No. The Republicans I talk to don't seem to care much about gay marriage anymore, and I truly don't see anything happening with to change what we have in place now. As a member of the LGBT community myself I believe our rights need to be expanded and protected and believe that legislation like the Equality Act would have been passed by now if more members of the community served in Congress. All Americans deserve the rights and protections afforded by the constitution.



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.

No, it's 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. “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.

Yes, we need to pass the Equality Act. It would add additional protections to the trans community. I would support ANY legislation that would make the trans community safer.

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.

Yes

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'm bisexual myself and have many friends, team members, exes in the trans community, the community that needs my support the most. I understand the dangers this community is facing and the struggles that could be made easier if we had legislators that had a deep understanding of this community. I will do everything in my power to protect this community. I am also a serious supporter of the Equality Act and believe it would have already been passed by now if we had more members of the LGBT+ community in Congress. I aim to be one of those people.



VOTER GUIDE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPS. – TX DISTRICT 26
FALL, 2018



MICHAEL C BURGESS
REPUBLICAN

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Residence: Denton, TX

Current Job/Profession: U.S. Congressman; Previously practiced medicine as an obstetrician for 30 years

Education: Master's Degree in Medical Management from the University of Texas at Dallas
M.D. from the University of Texas Medical School in Houston, Residency at Parkland Hospital in Dallas

Current Congressional Assignments:

Congressman Burgess serves on House Energy and Commerce Committee as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade, in addition to sitting on the Subcommittee on Health and the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. Congressman Burgess also serves on the Rules Committee and the Helsinki Commission, where he helps shape foreign policy through the monitor and compliance oversight of the Helsinki Accords. He is also the founder and co-chairman of the Congressional Health Caucus.

Position on Gay Marriage (burgess.house.gov):

I believe that the institution of marriage is a legal and moral bond between a man and a woman. I have therefore supported several efforts in the House of Representatives to define marriage as the union of a man and a woman and make any state law defining it in any other way unconstitutional.

Votes on LGBT Issues:

Voted NO on HR3685: Employment Non-Discrimination Act which would have made it an unlawful employment practice to discriminate against an individual on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation, including actions based on the actual or perceived sexual orientation of a person with whom the individual associates or has associated.

Voted YES on HJ RES 88; Marriage Protection Amendment which is a proposed amendment to the Constitution stating: "Marriage in the US shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman. Neither this Constitution, nor the constitution of any State, shall be construed to require that marriage or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon any union other than the union of a man and a woman."

GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate did not respond.



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MARK BOLER
LIBERTARIAN

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Residence: Oak Point, Texas

Current Job/Profession: Computer Software Engineer

Background:

I Am Not a Politician

I am a computer architect/scientist . I develop large software systems in the financial sector. I am also involved in research of artificial intelligence and modeling of the human brain using computers. I was involved in the Netflix Prize project, and continue to write software that seeks to model and understand large chaotic systems.

I began my career building software controlled robotic welding systems. Some of which helped build the nuclear power plant in South Texas, near Bay City, Since then, I have taught college courses in computers, was the vice president of a software development company, and have owned and run my own software business. The computer systems I have been involved with range from stock trading software, to medical instruments, federal tax systems, oil and gas accounting systems, air travel reservation systems and electronic and process control systems.

I have been involved in the Libertarian Party since 1988.

I am married with 5 children and live in Oak Point with our chickens, rabbits and a cat.

Issues:

Economic & Personal Liberty:

Individuals should be free to make choices for themselves and must accept responsibility for the consequences of the choices they make. Our support of an individual's right to make choices in life does not mean that we necessarily approve or disapprove of those choices. No individual, group, or government may initiate force against any other individual, group, or government.

Libertarians want all members of society to have abundant opportunities to achieve economic success. A free and competitive market allocates resources in the most efficient manner. Each person has the right to offer goods and services to others on the free market. The only proper role of government in the economic realm is to protect property rights, adjudicate disputes, and provide a legal framework in which voluntary trade is protected. All efforts by government to redistribute wealth, or to control or manage trade, are improper in a free society.

Minimizing Government:

We, the members of the Libertarian Party, challenge the cult of the omnipotent state and defend the rights of the individual. We hold that all individuals have the right to exercise sole dominion over their own lives, and have the right to live in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose.



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Governments throughout history have regularly operated on the opposite principle, that the State has the right to dispose of the lives of individuals and the fruits of their labor. Even within the United States, all political parties other than our own grant to government the right to regulate the lives of individuals and seize the fruits of their labor without their consent.

Since governments, when instituted, must not violate individual rights, we oppose all interference by government in the areas of voluntary and contractual relations among individuals. People should not be forced to sacrifice their lives and property for the benefit of others. They should be left free by government to deal with one another as free traders; and the resultant economic system, the only one compatible with the protection of individual rights, is the free market.

Law Enforcement:

The prescribed role of government is to protect the rights of every individual including the right to life, liberty and property. Criminal laws should be limited in their application to violations of the rights of others through force or fraud, or to deliberate actions that place others involuntarily at significant risk of harm. Therefore, we favor the repeal of all laws creating “crimes” without victims, such as the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes. We support restitution to the victim to the fullest degree possible at the expense of the criminal or the negligent wrongdoer. The constitutional rights of the criminally accused, including due process, a speedy trial, legal counsel, trial by jury, and the legal presumption of innocence until proven guilty, must be preserved. We assert the common-law right of juries to judge not only the facts but also the justice of the law.

Foreign Policy:

The protection of individual rights is the only proper purpose of government. Government is constitutionally limited so as to prevent the infringement of individual rights by the government itself. The principle of non-initiation of force should guide the relationships between governments.

American foreign policy should seek an America at peace with the world. Our foreign policy should emphasize defense against attack from abroad and enhance the likelihood of peace by avoiding foreign entanglements. We would end the current U.S. government policy of foreign intervention, including military and economic aid. We recognize the right of all people to resist tyranny and defend themselves and their rights. We condemn the use of force, and especially the use of terrorism, against the innocent, regardless of whether such acts are committed by governments or by political or revolutionary groups.

Why are you running for office?

I am running for office because I believe that most people are under-represented in Congress. Lobbyists and large donors tend to get the attention from our government. I want to change that.

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 do not believe the Supreme Court will change this matter much.

GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate did not respond.