



LORIE BURCH
DEMOCRAT

Email: campaign@lorieburchforcongress.com

Website: www.lorieburchforcongress.com

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

Residence: Plano, Texas

Current Job/Profession: Attorney – Wills, Probate, and Estate Planning

Education: B.S. – Trinity University, J.D., George Washington University School of Law

Highlight of Current Civic Involvement/Accomplishments:

I am proud to call Collin County my home. After I graduated from George Washington School of Law, I returned home to Plano to open my law practice in DFW. As a small business owner, I understand first-hand both the challenges businesses in our area face and the incredible opportunities we have for growth and innovation in our community.

I am proud to be involved locally as a member of the Human Rights Campaign Federal Club, Lambda Legal Liberty Circle, the American Business Women's Association, the Plano Chamber of Commerce, and the North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce. As I have volunteered my time in our community, I have maintained my involvement in the Plano Chamber of Commerce and North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce in order to bring economic growth from companies who were incentivized to build or relocate here because of our strong public schools and pro-diversity and equality policies.

I am proud to be involved with local organizations and equally proud to be raising a family in this community that has provided so much to me. As a graduate of Shepton High School and Plano Senior High, I am grateful that our daughters are receiving a quality education from our local public schools.

As a candidate, I have been honored that my history of leadership and advocacy in Collin County and beyond have earned me the endorsement of numerous groups - including The Human Rights Campaign, The National Organization for Women, The National Women's Political Caucus, Equality Texas, and Justice Democrats.

Why are you running for office?

Collin County is my home. From attending Plano public schools and starting a small business in this area, to serving as a community leader and raising a family with my children in public schools - I have had the opportunity to truly understand this community. As a candidate, I have been excited to have conversations with many individuals in our community who are looking for new representation. I am running for office because I firmly believe that we need leaders who represent all of us. Our elected officials must be willing to listen to people, encourage participation, find common ground, and work together through differences.

Like so many of my neighbors and fellow residents, I am tired of elected leaders who play partisan politics and listen more to special interests and corporate donors than to the very people who they are elected to represent. Therefore, I want to utilize my experience and passion for listening to all people - regardless of whether we agree - to find solutions to make our community and country better.



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 would suspect and hope that the Supreme Court would respect its own precedent in Obergefell v. Hodges.

There are both legal and economic benefits and protections that arise from a couple being married, and it is fundamentally unjust for the Supreme Court to grant these rights, only to eliminate them shortly after. A review of this case would also call into question how couples that are already married would be able to practice their marriage. This would create uncertainty and complicate a system that is working as intended. In a nation where LGBT youths are 5 times more likely than their heterosexual peers to attempt suicide, our government should be considering ways to encourage and include these young people, not further exclude them from our society.

I can think of no better way to answer this question than to quote the Obergefell decision: "No union is more profound than marriage, for it embodies the highest ideals of love, fidelity, devotion, sacrifice, and family. In forming a marital union, two people become something greater than once they were. As some of the petitioners in these cases demonstrate, marriage embodies a love that may endure even past death. It would misunderstand these men and women to say they disrespect the idea of marriage. Their plea is that they do respect it, respect it so deeply that they seek to find its fulfillment for themselves. Their hope is not to be condemned to live in loneliness, excluded from one of civilization's oldest institutions. They ask for equal dignity in the eyes of the law. The Constitution grants them that right."



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. Bills like these provide a legislative pretext for discrimination. We need to continue to move forward in promoting equality and providing equal protections for all individuals under the law.

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.

There is absolutely no evidence to support the claims that are used to spread fear about the trans community. We must protect transgender youth by supporting protections in public schools and in the workplace, and by increasing access to appropriate medical care and community resources to reduce the devastating rates of suicide by LGBT youth.

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.

It is past time that our legislators recognize the discrimination that takes place in our workplaces and communities against members of the LGBT community. The Equality Act, which would provide anti-discrimination protections in the workplace for LGBT individuals, is necessary to be sure that our community is protected under federal law.

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 have spent a lifetime advocating for the LGBT community and will continue to work to ensure that the progress we have made is not reversed by our representatives in Congress. I was also fortunate to be awarded two McCleary Law Fellowships with the Human Rights Campaign during my second and third years as a law student at George Washington University. Since returning home to this community, I have served as Chair of the North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Co-Chair of the DFW Human Rights Campaign Steering Committee, on the Board of Directors for Dallas’ Black Tie Dinner, on the Lambda Legal Leadership Committee, and on the Collin County Gay & Lesbian Board (now GALA). My law practice is a certified LGBT owned business through the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce. For decades, I have fought against discrimination of LGBT individuals and families like my own and will continue to do so as a Representative in Congress.



VOTER GUIDE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPS. - DISTRICT 3
FALL, 2018



VAN TAYLOR
REPUBLICAN

Email: info@vantaylor.com
Website: www.vantaylor.com
Facebook: [VanForTexas](#)

Residence: Plano, Texas

Current Job/Profession: Small Businessman

Education: BS, Harvard; MBA, Harvard Business School

Highlight of Current Civic Involvement/Accomplishments:

I am currently the State Senator for Collin County. Working with constituents I proudly spearheaded legislation protecting victims of domestic violence and safeguarding our children from online sexual predators. I also have worked to make it easier for our military to vote while serving overseas, verify the citizenship of every voter in the state, close a loophole preventing healthcare fraud and abuse saving local taxpayers millions, curb the prescription opioid epidemic, stop the proliferation of toll roads, and author sweeping ethics reform including revoking benefits from corrupt politicians. Additionally, our Truth in Taxation rule, which forces politicians to state clearly in the first line of any bill if there is an attempt to raise taxes or fees, has been cited by Americans for Tax Reform as a successful blueprint for other states to implement

Why are you running for office?

I am running for Congress for three reasons: Laura, Helen, and Susie (my daughters) and all the children in this great land. Throughout our nation's history every generation has fought to leave a better America for the next. Sadly, we are on track to leave our children a nation buried beneath a mountain of debt with politicians and bureaucrats in Washington controlling even the most routine aspects of our lives. We are losing our freedom not to a tyrant – but to government itself. I refuse to accept this future for our children.

I believe America's success story has volumes yet to be written and it is our duty to ensure the next generation inherits a nation just as strong, secure, and prosperous as previous generations have passed down throughout our history. America is at a tipping point. We must protect our liberty, restore the core mission of government, and renew the promise of the American Dream.

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 first liberty guaranteed in the first amendment to our Constitution protects religious freedom. Increasingly over recent years, we have seen people of faith and their religious freedoms come under aggressive attack by the radical left, sometimes under the guise of political correctness and other times by direct assault. As a coauthor of the Pastor Protection Act, Sermon Protection Act, and American Laws for American Courts Act, I have been an outspoken advocate for religious freedom in the Texas Legislature and will continue that fight in Washington, D.C.



GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate did not respond.



VOTER GUIDE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPS. - DISTRICT 3
FALL, 2018



CHRISTOPHER CLAYTOR
LIBERTARIAN

Email: cl84lib@verizon.net
Website: -
Facebook: [cl84lib](#)

Residence: Plano, Texas

Current Job/Profession: IT Manager

Education: BS in Electrical Engineering, United States Naval Academy (West Point)

Highlight of Current Civic Involvement/Accomplishments:

- Voter, Citizen, Taxpayer
- Member Preston Ridge Baptist Church
- Member Libertarian Party
- Congressional Candidate for Texas 3rd District 2018

Why are you running for office?

I have learned you either lead, follow, or get out of the way. The Federal Government has grown so large and beholden to special interest groups it no longer can effectively lead. Arrogant politicians refuse to follow. Therefore, the only choice is to get Government out of the way. When elected, I will seek to reduce the size (and therefore spending) of the Federal Government to get it out of the way of great American individuals who will lead us into the future, not hamstrung by burdensome regulations and taxes.

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?

As a Libertarian and strict Constitutionalist, I believe the Federal Government should have no say in this matter. Marriage is NOT mentioned in the US Constitution anywhere. Further, marriage is a religious ceremony, and as such the Government should be prohibited from having anything to do with it under the 1st Amendment ("Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;").



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. I feel any such legislation is not needed. We already have the First Amendment which guarantees religious freedom, further this type of legislation would be unconstitutional as it clearly would violate... "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;"

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.

Where someone goes to the bathroom should not be the Federal Government's concern. I am a strict Constitutionalist, and proponent of the 10th amendment. If the US Constitution does not specifically mention it, then it's not the Federal Government's responsibility and therefore "...are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." Additionally, the Federal Government should not be involved in Education or schools. Violence in schools should be a local law enforcement matter. That being said, I personally believe our society was formed on property rights. As such, attacks on our property, to include ourselves, should be the focus of law enforcement and receive the maximum punishments. Unfortunately today, law enforcement focus seems to be elsewhere (e.g. drug enforcement, regulation enforcement).

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.

No, I do not support additional Government regulation of any kind. Employees should be free to work where they want and are able. Employers should be able to hire who they wish. A truly free labor market is needed. I will work to repeal laws that get in the way of the free market. My goal is to make the Federal Government as small as possible to get it out of the way of great employees and employers to do great things.

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 in minimizing Government so we as individuals can have maximum freedom. Every individual should be free to live your life as you see fit, as long as it does not infringe on the rights of others to do the same. The Government should not force an individual to do something they do not want to, nor prohibit them for anything they enjoy (again, as long as it does not impede others' rights). Federal Income Taxes is a great example of forcing people to perhaps do something they would not want to do. Everyone who works is forced to pay. Those tax dollars are now used on whatever Congress wants (not what you want) and may include supporting people, causes, organizations you do not want supported. Again, we need to get Government out of the way.