



2026 Democrat Primary Candidate Questionnaire

The Stonewall Democrats of Austin (SDA) respectfully submit the attached questionnaire to you should you be interested in being considered for the group's endorsement in the 2026 Democrat Primary elections. Stonewall Democrats represent the political interests of the LGBTQIA+ community here in Austin.

If you would like to be considered for endorsement, please **e-mail** your response to the questionnaire to jessica@stonewallaustin.org **by 11.59 pm on Friday, October 3, 2025**. The endorsement meeting will be held Wednesday October 8 at 6:30PM. Details on location will be announced on our website and social media.

Please limit your responses to the space below for each question. If you would like to attach a brief biography and summary of your qualifications, you are welcome to do so.

1. Please tell us why you are seeking the endorsement of SDA. How long have you considered yourself a Democrat? Do you have a history of involvement in Democratic politics and/or LGBTQ issues? If so, please briefly describe this history.

Rep. Talarico is a member of the Texas LGBTQ Caucus — a nonpartisan official legislative caucus of the Texas House of Representatives dedicated to harnessing our collective power to defend the rights of LGBTQIA+ Texans and to achieve social justice and equity in our state. As a legislator and member of the House Public Education Committee, he has opposed any legislation that would encourage discrimination against LGBTQ Texans in school or elsewhere.

The endorsement of SDA would help Rep. Talarico reach voters and communicate his strong record on LGBTQ issues. He has always considered himself a Democrat and has been in the legislature since 2018.

2. Although the landmark Supreme Court decision on June 15, 2022 affirming that the 1964 Civil Rights Act protects gay, lesbian, and transgender from discrimination in employment was a huge victory in our fight of equality, LGBTQ Austinites face continued attacks from a hostile state government. How will you protect and strengthen our local protections and support passage of a comprehensive non-discrimination state law? (**JUDICIAL CANDIDATES PLEASE SKIP THIS QUESTION**)

In the Senate, Rep. Talarico will support legislation to support non-discrimination and will advocate for the passage of a non-discrimination law at the state level.

3. What do think are the key issues impacting the quality of life of the LGBTQ community in Austin and Travis County?

The politicization and villianization of the LGBTQ community has caused real harm and led to dangerous legislation that Republican lawmakers have championed in the state legislature, including legislation that stops families from making important medical decisions, ostracizes LGBTQ Texans, and requires sharing of private information about gender identify and sexual orientation. Many of our elected officials, and media companies, are focusing on these culture wars instead of actually serving Texans.

4. Surveys of LGBTQ Austinites have shown that “17% of respondents report spending 50% or more of their monthly income on housing and 65% report spending 30% or more of their monthly income on housing. In addition to rent burden, discrimination against LGBTQ people seeking housing was reported during interviews, focus groups, and community survey. Housing was the highest ranked priority for all participants.” How will you improve access to housing for our community? (**JUDICIAL CANDIDATES PLEASE SKIP THIS QUESTION**)

Rep. Talarico supports expanding the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit to increase the supply of affordable housing and expanding rental assistance programs that cover the gap for many tenants who can not afford the full cost of rent. Rep. Talarico also supports fully investing in communities that have historically been underinvested in and subject to restrictive zoning and land-use policies, as well as removing these restrictive classifications.

In the Texas State House, Rep. Talarico made housing more affordable by authorizing state low-income housing tax credits to complement the existing federal program, providing tax relief to organizations that construct or improve low-income housing, and passing legislation to finally allow single-stair housing in Texas — increasing supply and driving down prices.

5. Do you think the City of Austin and Travis County are doing enough to ensure equality for their LGBTQ employees?

6. If elected, would you commit to hiring and appointing LGBTQ individuals? If elected or re-elected, how will you strengthen the connection between the office you're running for and the LGBTQ community more generally?

Yes. Rep. Talarico will continue working with partners such as SDA to understand the issues and concerns of the LGBTQ community and consider feedback on how to better serve them. The LGBTQ community will always have an ally in Rep. Talarico and his staff.

7. Describe a step you would take, or have taken, or a proposal you would make, or have made if elected that would specifically benefit Austin's LGBTQ community.

If elected, Rep. Talarico would sponsor the Equality Act in the US Senate.

James Talarico

Candidate Name

Signature (electronic is acceptable)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JT', written over a horizontal line.