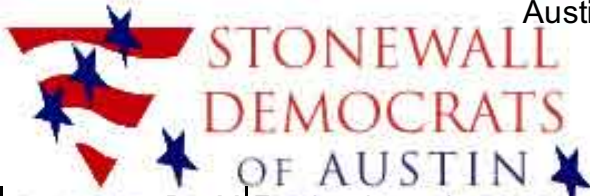


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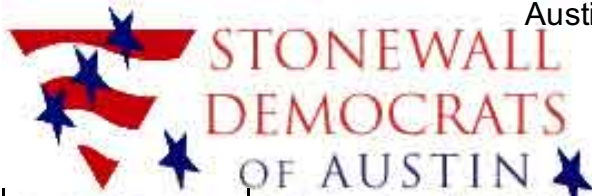
<p>Question 1</p>	<p>Please tell us why you are seeking the endorsement of SDA. Do you consider yourself to be a Democrat? Do you have a history of involvement in Democratic politics and/or LGBTQIA+ issues? If so, please briefly describe this history.</p>
<p>Casey Ramos</p>	<p>Every person counts. I have done my best to answer each and everyone one of these questionnaires. Civic groups like yours are what drive progress and it would be an honor to have your endorsement. Although my family and I vote primarily Democrat, many of the community activities I participate in are non-partisan and serve the community as a whole. I do not focus on political affiliation, gender, or anything personal, for fear of leaving anyone behind in my works. I feel most times, especially in this election, people from all walks of life agree on the same things at the city level. Transportation, Police Issues, Homelessness, and Lack of Housing are top concerns. Here is a list of the civic organizations that I am a part of: Board Member: Community Not Commodity Austin, Tx. 2017- Present Member: Dove Springs Community Developers Program, Austin, Tx. 2016-2018 Founding Member: Dove Springs Proud, Austin, Tx. 2013-Present Vice President: Dove Springs Neighborhood Association, Austin, Tx. 2013-2015 Sponsor/Coordinator: A.M.W Barbershop Back to School Giveback, Austin, Tx. 2013-2019, (TBA-) Sponsor/Volunteer/Mentor: Smith Elementary, Austin,Tx. 2007-Present</p>



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<p>David Chincanchan                  Post Office Box 40898 Austin, TX 78704</p>	<p>Earning the endorsement of SDA would mean so much to me and our campaign because many of the members that make up the organization are Democratic leaders who share our conviction and values, fight for justice and equity in our community, and have our deep respect and admiration. Many of those members we consider friends and family. It would be a huge honor to count on your support. I am proud to be a Democrat and have voted for Democrats and only Democrats in every election since I registered to vote when I was 18 years old. Though I am the youngest individual running for Council in any race, I have one of the most extensive Democratic voting histories. Since my time as a University Democrat and a first-generation college student at UT Austin, I have organized for progressive causes and have worked to elect Democrats up and down the ballot who care about and prioritize the needs of working families. As Chair of the Austin Tejano Democrats and through my involvement in the Travis County Democratic Party, I have volunteered and worked for progressive campaigns and Democratic candidates at all levels of government. In 2016, with the support of SDA members, I had the honor of being elected to represent Senate District 21 on the Executive Committee of the Texas Democratic Party. I was re-elected in 2018, and more recently I was elected to represent the state-wide Democratic Hispanic Caucus. I support our Democratic Platform and will always continue to work to build a more inclusive, representative, and progressive party. Through my work as an organizer, a campaign staffer, a labor advocate, a Democratic activist, and a Senior Policy Advisor and Chief of Staff at City Hall, I have always worked to ensure the rights and dignity of all people, including our LGBTQIA+ community, are recognized and respected.</p>
<p>Vanessa Fuentes</p>	<p>I am someone who has always championed LGBTQIA+ and Democratic Party Issues. I just recently ended my term serving as Co-Chair of the Travis County Democratic Party Diversity and Outreach Council, which aimed to create more diversity in local politics. I am a founding member of the Southeast Democratic Alliance; the only Democratic club focused on Southeast Austin and currently serve as the Vice President.</p>

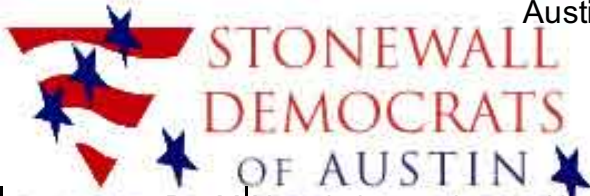
<p><b>Question 2</b></p>	<p><b>Although the landmark Supreme Court decision on June 15<sup>th</sup> affirming that the 1964 Civil Right Act protects gay, lesbian, and transgender from discrimination in employment was a huge victory in our fight of equality, LGBTQI+ Austinites faces continued attacks from a hostile state government. How will you protect and strengthen our local protections and support passage of a comprehensive non-discrimination state law?</b></p>
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<p><b>Casey Ramos</b> Post Office Box 40898 Austin, TX 78764</p>	<p>I propose we work with groups who are already established in fighting for LGBTQIA+ rights like Equality Texas and Keep Texas Open for Business. We can partner with these groups to establish a culture of openness through sound and fair policy at local, state, and federal levels. Some examples are the creation of the Texas Commission on Human Rights, Texas Fair Housing Act, and the decision by the Austin City Council to extend comprehensive protections to transgender individuals. If elected I would continue to fight for such policy. One where everyone is given a fair opportunity to present themselves as qualified, regardless of political affiliation, gender, or social status.</p>
<p><b>David Chincanchan</b></p>	<p>I support strengthening our local non-discrimination ordinances' enforcement mechanisms through the newly created Civil Rights Office and I commit to fighting any state challenges or pre-emptions against critical protections for our LGBTQIA+ community – including through legal action. I would also support the requirement that the City of Austin's anti-discrimination ordinance be required in the City's Chapter 380 incentive policies and contracting processes. I believe that our progressive community values must be reflected in all of our City investments, including our agreements with local businesses, contractors, and subcontractors. In regard to a comprehensive non-discrimination state law, I support including this legislation as a prominent and prioritized tenet of the City's legislative agenda and would advocate for its passage at the State-level by facilitating grassroots organizing efforts, actively participating in an education and awareness campaign about the law, and testifying at hearings.</p>
<p><b>Vanessa Fuentes</b></p>	<p>I am the only candidate in my race who has worked in the Texas Legislature and hope to use my experience in our Texas Capitol to fight for the passage of a comprehensive non-discrimination law. I believe the City of Austin is best when it is a place where everyone is welcome. I have spent my entire adult life fighting to ensure that everyone has a seat at the table.</p>

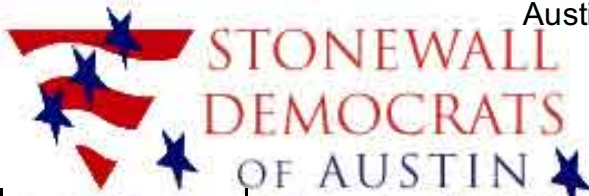
<p><b>Question 3</b></p>	<p><b>If elected would you commit to appointing LGBTQIA+ individuals to City Boards and Commissions? How will you strengthen the city's connections to the LGBTQIA+ community more generally?</b></p>
<p><b>Casey Ramos</b></p>	<p>If elected I will make it my duty to consider people from all walks of life including qualified individuals from the LGBTQIA+ community. As stated earlier, I do not focus on political affiliation, gender, or anything personal when it comes to civic service at the city level. I am open to all groups working in my office because that's the kind of diversity it takes to make true change.</p>



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<p><b>David Chincanchan</b></p>	<p>Yes during my time working as a Senior Policy Advisor and Chief of Staff at City Hall, I facilitated and supported the appointment of LGBTQIA+ individuals to City Boards and Commissions. Our office worked to achieve equitable representation when considering new candidates to these critical positions. I am committed not just to nominating additional LGBTQIA+ Austinites to City Boards, Commissions, and Task Forces but also to working to ensure that our City workforce reflects the diversity of our community. And I will support better outreach so that the community is aware of these opportunities to participate in shaping our local government. Having folks from diverse backgrounds serve in these positions provides better outcomes, ideas, and solutions that benefit our entire city.</p>
<p><b>Vanessa Fuentes</b></p>	<p>I plan to appoint diverse voices to Austin's Boards and Commissions. Our Boards and Commissions should reflect the community we serve, but sadly that is too often not the case. I currently serve on the City of Austin Tourism Commission. At one point, I was the only person of color on that commission. I plan to work closely with the LGBTQIA+ community to ensure they have an advocate in District 2.</p>

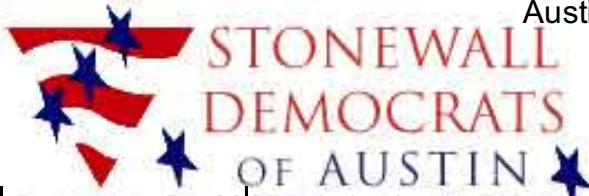
<p><b>Question 4</b></p>	<p><b>Do you support the June 8, 2020 Austin LGBTQ Quality of Life Commission Recommendation 20200608-C related to Black Lives Matter? Describe your position on policing reform in Austin and our LGBTQIA+ community.</b></p>



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Casey Ramos

As a city that reached one million people inside the city limit, with thousands more who are unaccounted for, I cannot support transferring any funds from the police department. Austin is a growing city and the police force should grow with it. I believe the police must be well funded because they need room to grow. We need police. They ensure our safety, and for the most part keep society from going into complete chaos. That is not to say the police are perfect. As a proud Chicano living in the Southeast, I have had my fair share of run ins with the law. We need reform, and badly. District 2 is disproportionately targeted by APD for DWIs, non-violent crimes, and killings of residents every day. Many of those crimes could have been prevented by both sides. We must hold ourselves accountable also. We already understand that we are targeted, do not give more of a reason. I do support transferring services, like mental health calls, drug related issues, and other minor social ailments that can be treated by social service professionals. The police have neither the expertise, training, or time to handle these calls properly. We need to find an alternative source for these programs. Instead of taking out \$9 billion for a rail, let's help our people. I also believe if we keep the police department well funded, we need to hold them more accountable. I propose that before an officer can be sworn in, they must have personal liability insurance, similar to malpractice insurance for doctors. That way if an officer unjustifiably makes a mistake and hurts or kills a resident, the community does not lose out twice as the officer will have to pay and not the taxpayers. Another reason the police need to remain funded is because of the community programs they use. I am a product of the PAL(Police Activities League) program, a program that funds sports and liberal arts activities for children. As a youth I was a part of the PAL boxing team at the Pan-Am Rec Center in East Austin. Through this program I was able to travel the state and country. I accumulated over 100 amature fights and became a professional at 17. From 17-27 I fought all over the country and world, getting educated at St.Edward's University in the process. Without boxing or PAL I don't know where I would be.

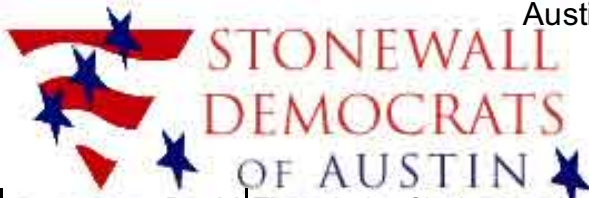


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<p><b>David Chincanchan</b>                  Post Office Box 40898 Austin, TX 78704</p>	<p>Yes, I absolutely support the LGBTQ Quality of Life Commission's recommendations. Moreover, I have called for far-reaching structural change to the Austin Police Department and our public safety institutions, including efforts to balance our investment toward services that can yield better outcomes for all of our residents, especially communities of color and other underserved communities, and better align with our community's values. In our country and in our community, there are institutions meant to uphold justice that still fail to recognize the humanity of our black communities. To make the kind of changes that these institutions urgently require, we need to build public trust. To build public trust, we need to have real measures of accountability. And to have real accountability we need to make sure that the voices of our most impacted communities are included. That all needs to be underpinned by strong civilian oversight and public safety leaders who understand that their role is to work in partnership with the community for progress and accountability.</p>
<p><b>Vanessa Fuentes</b></p>	<p>The sad truth is that our Governor and other Republicans in this state have politicized recent funding decisions, working to score political points instead of joining in the real discussion happening in our city on how to reimagine our police department. Recently, the City Council reinvested city funds from the cadet class in staffing and programs outside of APD, including new ambulances, mental health response, community health paramedics serving the homeless, domestic violence shelters, substance use, and violence prevention programs that will save lives and make our community safer for all. With this action, we are now using limited city resources more effectively for greater public safety. In fiscal year 2019, our city council allocated \$434 million to law enforcement or \$444 per resident. This was more than Dallas at \$385 per resident, Houston at \$388 per resident or San Antonio. Austin like many cities in our country has seen its police budget grow even as violent crime decreased. It is not anti-police to say maybe we don't need so many new police this year, we need specialized skills that help ensure police can spend more of their time focused on serious crimes. I would have voted "Yes" on this action.</p>

<p><b>Question 5</b></p>	<p><b>Do you think the City of Austin is doing enough to ensure equality for its LGBTQIA+ employees?</b></p>
<p><b>Casey Ramos</b></p>	<p>No. The City of Austin consistently underserves and underrepresents minority groups like the LGBTQIA+ everyday. There is no legislation that establishes LGBTQIA+ anti-discrimination laws in Texas and barely any at the local level. We can do better to be a city for all people. I will fight for policy mandates in hiring processes within the city that focus purely on qualifications and never sexual orientation, political affiliation, or anything else we may consider personal.</p>

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<p>David Chincanchan</p>	<p>Though the City has made progress in cultivating equity in the workplace, including for LGBTQIA+ employees through more inclusive healthcare benefits and other vital protections at work, there is still so much more work that needs to be done to ensure equality and equity. We must work to recruit a diverse workforce that reflects our community and make sure evaluations and promotion decisions are made through processes that protect our employees from prejudice and discrimination. LGBTQIA+ employees should feel safe and supported in their work environment.</p>
<p>Vanessa Fuentes</p>	<p>We can always do more to ensure equality for our employees, especially for our LGBTQIA+ employees. I hope to be an advocate on Austin City Council to ensure true equality in representation not just in our workforce but also in leadership/executive positions.</p>

<p><b>Question 6</b></p>	<p><b>Describe a step you would take, or have taken, or a proposal you would make, or have made as a member of Austin's City Council that would <u>specifically</u> benefit Austin's LGBTQIA+ community.</b></p>
<p>Casey Ramos</p>	<p>The children of the LGBTQIA+ are priority. I want to keep Austin a safe, loving and free spirited place, where dreams come true, just like it has been for me. Austin can do this by adding more places like Kind Clinic, which are safe havens for the youth. If we take care of our youth, we take care of the future.</p>
<p>David Chincanchan</p>	<p>Through my work at Council, I have helped support, including through funding and fee waivers, organizations and events meant to uplift our LGBTQIA+ community – like PRIDE and Queerbomb - and the creation of the LGBTQ Quality of Life Study. I support the efforts of SEEN to ensure inclusive workplaces that allow City of Austin employees to feel a sense of connection, community, acceptance, and pride at work. As a Council Member I would seek guidance and feedback from City of Austin employees who are part of the LGBTQIA+ community and SDA on how the City of Austin could be a more just and inclusive employer.</p>
<p>Vanessa Fuentes</p>	<p>Recently, the City of Austin moved forward on a LGBTQIA+ Quality of Life Study. I plan to closely monitor this study and help implement its recommendations.</p>