



**VOTER GUIDE
LT. GOVERNOR
FALL, 2018**



MIKE COLLIER
DEMOCRAT

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Residence: Humble, Texas

Current Job/Profession: Retired PwC partner; Serving as a Senior Advisor to Duff & Phelps, LLC, an international financial consulting and services firm.

Education: BBA in Petroleum Land Management and MBA in Finance – University of Texas at Austin

Highlights of Civic Involvement/Accomplishments:

Technical Advisor to the Board of Directors, Houston Community Foundation
Board of Directors, Reasoning Minds, LLC

Why are you running for this office?

Our property taxes have skyrocketed yet we don't have enough money for public education or vital services. That means that Texas families and small businesses are being cheated. As a CPA I have diagnosed the problem and offer serious solutions. The incumbent Lt Governor produced budgets during his four-year term that increased property taxes state-wide by 4.56% in his first year; 6.18% in his second year; 7.04% in his third year; and 6.77% in his fourth year. Compounded, that is a 26.9% increase in property taxes, yet our schools continue to be underfunded. Between 2018 and 2019, local school property taxes will increase \$6.9 billion, while the state will reduce its support to schools by \$660 million.

To begin to address the property tax crisis, I propose to close the property tax loophole that allows the owners of large, commercial and industrial properties to cheat the system by \$5 billion per year. Closing this loophole will not kill jobs. Texas' unemployment has, for most of the year, been below the national average because we are over taxing homeowners and small businesses.

As Lt Governor, I will also fight to:

- Restore benefits taken away from retired teachers and public-school support staff
- Fully fund TRS (defined benefit pension plan) and TRS-Care
- Increase investment in public education
- Expand Medicaid, as 33 other states have done, because it's a good deal for Texas
- Kill gerrymandering
- Restructure the State Auditor so that we have a truly independent audit capability, free of political influence
- Reform our water policy to protect water rights and meet our state's increasing need for fresh water
- End our addiction to debt
- Invest in transportation infrastructure and reduce (eliminate!) use of tolls
- Secure the border intelligently and humanely, and demand comprehensive immigration reform
- Restore compassion to Texas public policy

Texas needs a can-do leader with a vision. I believe I am that leader



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Why should voters choose you over your opponent?

My opponent refuses to solve problems. Every problem the state faced at the start of his term has gotten MUCH worse. Property taxes are much higher (my opponents budget mandated much higher property taxes!). School funding is worse. Teacher and support staff retirement plans are much deeper in debt (deep cuts have already been made). The state added another \$10 billion to our already massive debt load. Our schools are no safer. Texas is running out of water. Our southern border remains porous. Texas unemployment has fallen to below average.

Instead of even trying to solve problems, my opponent spent his four years trying to advance his political career with ridiculous claims and even more ridiculous stunts. He'll do the same if reelected. The worst example of this is his obsession with bathrooms -- a hateful political stunt that Texans saw right through.

In contrast, I am a problem solver. That's the only reason I decided to run for office. No frills, just honest work. I have a very clear idea as to how we can start solving our state's problems, such as our financial problems that are causing property taxes to skyrocket while our schools and vital services are underfunded. And I also believe we have lost our way in terms of compassion. Texans are hungry for non-partisan, honest, intelligent, compassionate leadership. That is NOT what they are getting with Dan Patrick. He doesn't even try. But that is exactly what Texans will get when I am their Lt Governor.

There won't be any headline grabbing stunts or gimmicks on my watch as Lt Governor. We have too much work to do!

The 2017 legislative session was dominated by the “bathroom bill” debate. Do you believe the state should require people to use the bathroom designated for the biological sex listed on their birth certificate?

No. Absolutely not. The entire crisis is fake. Look at what happened when Dan Patrick's bathroom bill failed, and the legislature went home. Nothing. Texans aren't worried about bathrooms. We aren't even talking about them. Dan Patrick is the only one talking about them, and he's making a complete fool of himself in my opinion.



GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

During the last legislative session, Texas passed the Freedom to Serve Children Act which allows foster homes and adoption agencies, including those that receive public funds, to choose to only place children in homes with a mother and father. This coming session we anticipate once again seeing “Religious Liberty” bills which offer protection to businesses that deny services such as counseling, wedding planning, etc. to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Texans when based on “sincerely held religious beliefs.” Would you support such legislation? If so, please explain your justification of the expenditure of state funds defending such a law, as several similar laws are already actively involved in court cases and have been found to be discriminatory and unconstitutional? If you do not support such a proposal, please explain how you would justify your decision to a business that doesn’t wish to provide a specific service, such as baking a wedding cake, to an LGBT individual.

I do not support "Religious Liberty" bills. For example, I will fight for a law allowing LGBTQ couples to adopt. Members of the LGBTQ community are just as fit to adopt children as anyone else. More than anything, an adopted child needs a home with parent(s) that will love and support them. As far as businesses are concerned, I will fight for laws that ensure that no one is discriminated against because of their sexual/gender identity. I will also work to repeal the Texas Marriage/Civil Union Amendment and protect same-sex couples' rights to equal treatment in all respects under the law. I profoundly disagree that freedom is the freedom to discriminate. I have a more fundamental view of freedom. The freedom I aspire to is freedom from interference in how I live my life and freedom from discrimination from others. To me freedom is the freedom to be free. The LGBTQ community has the right to expect non-discriminatory employment and residence practices – and fairness in many other areas like services -- and I will support legislation to that effect.

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. This coming legislative session, we anticipate that we will once again see the introduction of a “Bathroom Bill” which requires transgender students use the bathroom that matches their sex assigned at birth. Would you support such legislation? If you support such legislation, what steps would you include to ensure that transgender children are not bullied or physically attacked when they enter a bathroom? If you oppose such legislation, how would you explain your stance to a constituent concerned about their child’s right to privacy in the school bathroom?

I absolutely 100% do not support legislation like the "Bathroom Bill". The "Bathroom Bill" is legislation that is based on hate, and if elected, I will never support a bill that has its roots in discriminatory/hateful rhetoric. Texans need a Lt. Governor that will get to work solving problems as opposed to stunts and gimmicks designed to divide us. To ensure transgender children are not bullied/attacked, I will increase funding for schools and sexual education. Often what's missing is knowledge, and when students are taught that you should treat everyone equally, they will learn to be more kind to their classmates, despite any differences.



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During the last legislative session, the State Legislature attempted to pass a record number of bills considered anti-LGBT. Several states that have passed similar anti-LGBT laws have faced business boycotts. Conversely, cities/municipalities wanting to be more attractive to business relocations, have passed Equal Rights Ordinances (EROs). These ordinances typically prohibit discrimination in city employment and city services, city contracts, public accommodations, private employment, and housing based on an individual's sex, race, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, familial status, marital status, military status, religion, disability, sexual orientation, genetic information, gender identity/expression or pregnancy. Do you support the right of local governments to pass EROs? Please explain your position.

I do support cities/municipalities rights to pass ERO's. Republicans used to be for more local control, a platform that in practice they have since abandoned. Local leaders understand more than leaders at the Capitol what works best for their communities. As Lt. Governor, I will fight for more local control when it comes to lawmaking.

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?

The LGBTQ Community should support me because I will do the same in office as I did as a senior partner at PwC. We had LGBTQ initiatives that involved hiring metrics, training, and team building. Enlightened business leaders have years of experience with management techniques that result in achieving diversity objectives. I will deploy these techniques, to the full extent possible as Lt Governor. And of course, I will make sure there are LGBTQ Texans in substantive roles in the office of Lt. Governor. Finally, I will say that in my business experience, when we had more diverse teams, it led to greater success. Achieving goals requires a wide array of opinions and backgrounds. After 24 years of unfettered GOP leadership in Texas, it is clear that current leaders, such as my opponent, do not get this idea. I look forward to holding office so that I can help make Texas a place where anyone (no matter what their background or lifestyle is) feels like they have an opportunity to live their best lives. As a pro-diversity business leader, I wish to be very publicly identified with the diversity and inclusiveness movement.



DAN PATRICK
REPUBLICAN

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Residence: Houston

Current Job/Profession: Lt. Governor

Education: -

Meet Dan Patrick (www.danpatrick.org)

Dan Patrick was elected Lt. Governor of Texas in 2014, winning the general election by almost 20 points, including historic levels of support from Hispanic voters and women.

A preeminent voice for principled conservative policies both in Texas and across the nation, Lt. Gov. Patrick is leading the fight for life and liberty in Texas including securing the border, reducing property and business taxes, standing up for the Second Amendment and addressing Texas' infrastructure challenges to assure that our state continues to flourish economically.

Lt. Governor Patrick presided over what have been called the most conservative and productive sessions of the State Senate in Texas history. Focusing on strategies to keep Texas families and communities safe and the state economy strong, under his leadership, the Senate passed legislation to dramatically increase support for border security and reduced the franchise tax by 25% on a pathway to eliminating it all together.

Lt. Governor Patrick has championed property tax relief over several legislative sessions and continued the education reforms he began as Chair of the Senate Education Committee, tackling the problems of failing schools and giving parents more choices for their children.

Lt. Governor Patrick is an outspoken supporter of law enforcement and, among other things, initiated a program that ensures that every police officer on patrol in Texas has a bullet proof vest that is capable of withstanding a high caliber rifle shot.

Lt. Governor Patrick passed the sonogram bill and has championed numerous other measures to support and protect every life in Texas.

Lt. Governor Patrick is a member of the Board of the Republican Lt. Governor's Association. Before he was elected Lt. Governor, he was twice elected to the Texas Senate representing part of Houston and Northwest Harris County. He is a successful small-business man and radio host, a former television anchor, sportscaster, musician, Christian author and movie producer.

Lt. Governor Patrick is also involved in his community. He has raised over \$16 million for children with disabilities through his radio show and started the first seminary in a Texas prison to train long-serving inmates for the ministry.

Lt. Governor Patrick has been married to his wife Jan, a former schoolteacher, for 42 years. They are the proud parents of son Ryan and daughter Shane, and the grandparents to five grandchildren.



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Actions on LGBT Issues:

Dallas Morning News, To promote Texas' bathroom bill, Dan Patrick turns to anti-LGBT groups – March 2017

AUSTIN — Two groups tapped by Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick to lead a statewide campaign for his divisive bathroom bill are longtime opponents of LGBT rights that have called transgender people “unnatural” and “unhealthy” peddlers of “destructive behavior.”

Earlier this month, Patrick launched “Operation One Million Voices,” a new effort spearheaded by Rick Scarborough’s Vision America and Tony Perkins’ Family Research Council to garner Christian support for Senate Bill 6, the so-called bathroom bill.

Supporters say the measure, which would restrict bathroom access based on biological sex, isn't meant to target transgender Texans. But LGBT advocates say the leaders Patrick chose to head his campaign — who have called members of the transgender community “confused” and “sinful” people who can be cured through religious intervention — are troubling spokesmen for a bill its proponents insist isn't meant to be discriminatory.

Associated Press, Lt Gov: Texas Will Forego Federal Funds Over LGBT Policy – May 2016

DALLAS (AP) — Texas’ lieutenant governor said Friday that the state is prepared to forfeit billions of federal dollars in public school funding in defiance of an Obama administration directive requiring schools to allow transgender students to use bathrooms and locker rooms consistent with their chosen gender identity.

Project Q Houston, Dan Patrick unleashes attack on mayor, HERO

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, never shy about his anti-gay beliefs, stepped into the debate over HERO by blasting Mayor Annise Parker and dropping \$70,000 on a nasty ad against the non-discrimination ordinance.

"City of Houston Prop 1 is not about equality – that's already the law. It's about allowing men in women's locker rooms and bathrooms," Patrick says in the 30-second spot. (Watch below) "No woman should have to share a public restroom or locker room with a man. I haven't found anyone who thinks they should."

GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Candidate did not respond.



KERRY McKENNON

LIBERTARIAN

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Website: www.mckennon4texas.com

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

Residence: Petersburg, Texas

Current Job/Profession: Sales, works to help place exchange students in host family homes.

Education: Some college

Highlights of Civic Involvement/Accomplishments:

National Chair for Outright Libertarians

Served as platform chair for two terms for the Libertarian Party of Texas

Received a Certificate of Appreciation from the City of Los Angeles in 2004

Why are you running for this office?

I want to be Lt. Governor to protect Liberty from the ever-encroaching state. It is time we as Americans and Texans start regaining our rights from the political elite trampling on them down in Austin. There are many common-sense issues not being brought up. The first of these being a balanced budget, and the second being the reestablishment of private property.

Why should voters choose you over your opponent?

Well first off, its opponents because we live in an open democracy for elections with more than two options. Patrick has proven he thinks of himself as a king reigning over the Senate and is not a representative leader. Collier is hyper-focused on the numbers that he loses the nuanced spectrum of perception to create effective policy. I am first and foremost of the people and for the people. I will bring a balanced view. I represent the largest voting demographic, the nonvoters.-

The 2017 legislative session was dominated by the “bathroom bill” debate. Do you believe the state should require people to use the bathroom designated for the biological sex listed on their birth certificate?

No.



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During the last legislative session, Texas passed the Freedom to Serve Children Act which allows foster homes and adoption agencies, including those that receive public funds, to choose to only place children in homes with a mother and father. This coming session we anticipate once again seeing “Religious Liberty” bills which offer protection to businesses that deny services such as counseling, wedding planning, etc. to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Texans when based on “sincerely held religious beliefs.” Would you support such legislation? If so, please explain your justification of the expenditure of state funds defending such a law, as several similar laws are already actively involved in court cases and have been found to be discriminatory and unconstitutional? If you do not support such a proposal, please explain how you would justify your decision to a business that doesn’t wish to provide a specific service, such as baking a wedding cake, to an LGBT individual.

Freedom of religion is just that. Granted we do not need new laws to protect freedom of religion as seen via Masterpiece Cakeshop v Colorado Rights Commission. Yes, it is discrimination, but there isn't a perfect answer to everything. You can always use another private industry, but a person cannot be coerced to change their religion. There would not need to be new laws created to be defended as the 1st Amendment covers it. Let the discrimination happen and let these businesses expose themselves. Let boycotts and loss of revenue happen. I'd rather know because they don't deserve our business anyways.

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. This coming legislative session, we anticipate that we will once again see the introduction of a “Bathroom Bill” which requires transgender students use the bathroom that matches their sex assigned at birth. Would you support such legislation? If you support such legislation, what steps would you include to ensure that transgender children are not bullied or physically attacked when they enter a bathroom? If you oppose such legislation, how would you explain your stance to a constituent concerned about their child’s right to privacy in the school bathroom?

I would oppose the legislation. Every child deserves fair treatment. If we're going into the semantics of such a law the right to privacy includes those protected in the 4th Amendment about not having to show papers which is what potty police is asking for. The children going through a transition are not looking to spy, but going through a very difficult situation. All we're asking is to show some empathy for one another here and to expect people to act with civility.

During the last legislative session, the State Legislature attempted to pass a record number of bills considered anti-LGBT. Several states that have passed similar anti-LGBT laws have faced business boycotts. Conversely, cities/municipalities wanting to be more attractive to business relocations, have passed Equal Rights Ordinances (EROs). These ordinances typically prohibit discrimination in city employment and city services, city contracts, public accommodations, private employment, and housing based on an individual’s sex, race, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, familial status, marital status, military status, religion, disability, sexual orientation, genetic information, gender identity/expression or pregnancy. Do you support the right of local governments to pass EROs? Please explain your position.

I support making government as locally controlled as possible. I believe anything that is private should remain such and that the market will have a far greater backlash to anything private that discriminates. The Government should remain vigilant in setting a high bar for antidiscrimination measures for itself. Meanwhile private employment and housing should be able to discriminate, which does not mean they are free from consequences such as boycotts. I support EROs when they are holding government accountable

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?

As an openly gay man, I will embrace the role of Lt Governor from a unique and quite different viewpoint as the current incumbent. I never thought that I would be this open about my personal life. Why? Cause when I was growing up you were not out of the closet in rural Texas at all. Walter and I have been married for 10 years and I still sometimes feel like I am dreaming that this is reality. I joined the Libertarian Party, because since 1971 my party has advocated for freedom to love whomever you want to love. I never dreamed that I would have the opportunity to represent a party and my community as a candidate for statewide public office. I promise that my door at Lt Governor or personal will be open with a ear to listen and shoulder if need be. I will fight for individual Liberty for ALL Texans.