



# **OPPO DUMP: VULNERABLE TEXAS REPUBLICANS ON LGBTQ EQUALITY**



# MATT SHAHEEN

Representative Shaheen wrote 12 anti-LGBTQ bills during his time in the Legislature, including bills that stop schools and city councils from fighting discrimination. He opposes marriage equality, has called pro-LGBTQ rights organizations a “travelling roadshow,” and falsely claims that anti-discrimination laws endanger women and children.

## They Said What?!

**[Audio] Shaheen called gay and trans rights organizations a “travelling roadshow” that went from school board to school board threatening ramifications if students couldn’t use the bathroom that matched their gender.** [Matt Shaheen, Point of View Talk Radio, [4/23/18](#)]

**[Audio] Shaheen claimed his bill banning local governments from passing inclusive bathroom laws was to protect “the safety and privacy of women.”** [Matt Shaheen, Point of View Talk Radio, [4/23/18](#)]

**[Audio] Shaheen: “God created marriage as a union between a man and a woman.”** [Matt Shaheen, Point of View Talk Radio, [1/15/20](#)]

**[Audio] Shaheen: “We’ll be better off” with bills like the Chick-fil-a bill.** [Matt Shaheen, Point of View Talk Radio, [1/15/20](#)]

## Bills

Authored bills to:

- ✓ Stop schools from establishing gender neutral bathrooms [[HB 1362](#)]
- ✓ Stop local governments from establishing inclusive bathroom policies at private businesses [[HB 1362](#)]
- ✓ Repeal city non-discrimination laws [[HB 1911](#)]

Co-Authored and co-sponsored bills to:

- ✓ Strip county clerks of the ability to issue marriage licenses [[HB 1745](#)]
- ✓ Stop state and local money from being spent on same-sex marriage [[HB 4105](#)]
- ✓ Stop local governments from banning discriminatory businesses [[SB 1978](#), [HB 3172](#)]
- ✓ Ban cities, schools, and colleges from protecting trans people’s rights to use the bathroom that matches their gender [[HB 46](#)]
- ✓ Overturn local laws that banned discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity [[HB 2899](#)]
- ✓ Exempt some college student organizations from non-discrimination policies [[HB 428](#)]
- ✓ Take salaries from government employees that issue marriage licenses to LGBTQ couples [[HB 623](#)]
- ✓ Allow religious organizations to discriminate against LGBTQ couples [[HB 3567](#)]
- ✓ Allow government employees to refuse to issue marriage licenses to LGBTQ couples [[HB 3602](#)]

Voted to:

- ✓ Stop local governments from banning discriminatory businesses [[SB 1978](#)]
- ✓ Ban transgender students from using the bathroom that matches their gender [[SB 2078](#), [Amendment 2](#)]
- ✓ Allow adoption agencies to deny LGBTQ couples [[HB 3859](#)]

## Positions

Strongly agreed that “governments should not discriminate against individuals, organizations or small businesses because of their belief that marriage is only a union of one man and one woman.” [iVoter Guide Questionnaire, accessed [6/04/20](#)]

Strongly agreed that “governments should define marriage as between one man and one woman; no other definition of marriage should be legalized or supported with taxpayer or public funds.” [iVoter Guide Questionnaire, accessed [6/04/20](#)]

Strongly disagreed that “people should be allowed to use public restrooms, showers, and changing rooms based on ‘gender identity.’” [iVoter Guide Questionnaire, accessed [6/04/20](#)]

Signed a letter opposing an anti-discrimination ordinance, claiming it “may place women and children at risk.” [accessed [6/12/20](#)]

## Who’s Funding Them?

**November 2017: Matt Shaheen Accepted \$1,500 From Texas Values.** [Matt Shaheen Campaign Finance Report, filed 1/16/18];

**October 2016: Shaheen Accepted \$500 From The Dallas Eagle Forum PAC Fund.** [Matt Shaheen Campaign Finance Report, filed 10/31/2016];

**October 2016: Shaheen Accepted \$500 From The Dallas Eagle Forum.** [Matt Shaheen Campaign Finance Report, filed 10/11/2016];

**October 2014: Shaheen Accepted \$250 From The Dallas Eagle Forum.** [Matt Shaheen Campaign Finance Report, filed 1/15/2015];

## JEFF LEACH

Representative Leach has authored, co-authored, or co-sponsored 22 bills fighting against marriage equality and non-discrimination laws. He’s worked with prominent anti-LGBTQ groups and praised discriminatory laws. As chair of the Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence committee, he killed pro-LGBTQ bills, including one that would have removed the requirement that sex education teach Texas children that “homosexual conduct” is a criminal offense.

## They Said What?!

**[Audio] Leach Claimed A Bill Banning Transgender People From Using The Bathroom That Matches Their Gender Was Necessary To Protect The “Privacy And The Dignity And The Safety Of Women And Children.”** [Jeff Leach, Trey Block Show, [5/05/17](#)]

**[Audio] Leach Called An Amendment To Ban Trans Students From Using The Bathroom That Matches Their Gender “A Good Bill.”** [Jeff Leach, Trey Block Show, [5/05/17](#)]

**American Independent: “Texas lawmaker celebrates state’s abortion ban with anti-LGBTQ group”** [[4/22/20](#)]

**Pink News: Jeff Leach “spends coronavirus lockdown celebrating a ban on abortions with an anti-LGBT+ group”** [[4/23/20](#)]

## Bills

Authored bills to:

- ✓ Stop family court from considering whether a parent refuses to acknowledge a trans child's gender [[HB 1910](#)]
- ✓ Repeal local non-discrimination laws [[HB 1911](#)]

Co-Authored and co-sponsored bills to:

- ✓ Strip county clerks of the ability to issue marriage licenses [[HB 1745](#)]
- ✓ Stop state and local money from being spent on same-sex marriage [[HB 4105](#)]
- ✓ Stop local governments from banning discriminatory businesses [[SB 1978](#), [HB 3172](#)]
- ✓ Allow adoption agencies to deny LGBTQ couples [[HB 3859](#)]
- ✓ Ban cities, schools, and colleges from protecting trans people's rights to use the bathroom that matches their gender [[HB 46](#)]
- ✓ Ban school districts from protecting trans people's rights to use the bathroom that matches their gender [[HB 50](#)]
- ✓ Stop schools from establishing gender neutral bathrooms [[HB 1362](#)]
- ✓ Stop local governments from establishing inclusive bathroom policies at private businesses [[HB 1362](#)]
- ✓ Overturn local laws that banned discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity [[HB 2899](#)]
- ✓ Allow child welfare service providers to refuse services to LGBTQ people [[HB 1805](#)]
- ✓ Exempt some college student organizations from non-discrimination policies [[HB 428](#)]
- ✓ Allow businesses to refuse service to LGBTQ patrons [[HB 1923](#)]
- ✓ Allow county clerks and deputy county clerks to refuse to issue marriage licenses to LGBTQ couples [[HB 2795](#)]
- ✓ Allow psychologists and counselors to refuse treatment to LGBTQ patients [[HB 3856](#)]
- ✓ Create a constitutional amendment allowing businesses to discriminate against LGBT patrons [[HJR 125](#)]
- ✓ Take salaries from government employees that issue marriage licenses to LGBTQ couples [[HB 623](#)]
- ✓ Allow religious organizations to discriminate against LGBTQ couples [[HB 3567](#)]
- ✓ Allow government employees to refuse to issue marriage licenses to LGBTQ couples [[HB 3602](#)]
- ✓ Stop the state from cancelling contracts with a child welfare organization that forced kids in its care to undergo [conversion therapy](#) [[HB 3864](#)]
- ✓ Allow adoption agencies to discriminate against LGBT adopters [[HB 3864](#)]
- ✓ Cut funding for public schools that offered benefits to employees' domestic partners [[HB 1568](#)]

Voted to:

- ✓ Stop local governments from banning discriminatory businesses [[SB 1978](#)]
- ✓ Ban transgender students from using the bathroom that matches their gender [[SB 2078, Amendment 2](#)]
- ✓ Allow adoption agencies to deny LGBTQ couples [[HB 3859](#)]
- ✓ Exempt student organizations from a school's non-discrimination policy [[SB 215, Amendment 31](#)]

Killed bills to:

- ✓ Introduce gender neutral language to marriage and parenting laws [[HB 978](#)]
- ✓ Remove requirements for sex education to teach children that "homosexual conduct is not an acceptable lifestyle" and is a "criminal offense" [[HB 978](#)]
- ✓ Repeal the gay marriage ban in Texas [[HJR 64](#)]

## Positions

Strongly disagreed that "business owners should be required by law to bake cakes, provide flower arrangements, etc., for same-sex weddings, even when these activities would infringe on their sincerely-held religious beliefs." [iVoter Guide Questionnaire, accessed [6/04/20](#)]

Strongly agreed that "governments should define marriage as between one man and one woman; no other definition of marriage should be legalized or supported with public funds." [iVoter Guide Questionnaire, accessed [6/04/20](#)]

Signed a letter opposing an anti-discrimination ordinance, claiming it “may place women and children at risk.” [accessed [6/12/20](#)]

## Who’s Funding Them?

**November 2019: Leach Accepted \$2,000 From Koch PAC.** [Jeff Leach Campaign Finance Report, filed 1/15/2020]<sup>iii</sup>

**October 2018: Leach Accepted \$300 From The Dallas Eagle Forum.** [Jeff Leach Campaign Finance Report, filed 10/29/2018]<sup>ii</sup>

**April 2018: Leach Accepted \$50 From Cathie Adams, The International Issues Chairwoman For The Eagle Forum.** [Jeff Leach Campaign Finance Report, filed 7/13/2018]<sup>iv</sup>

**October 2016: Leach Accepted \$600 From The Dallas Eagle Forum PAC.** [Jeff Leach Campaign Finance Report, filed 10/31/2016]<sup>ii</sup>

**July 2015: Leach Accepted \$150 From The American Legislative Exchange Council.** [Jeff Leach Campaign Finance Report, filed 1/14/2016]<sup>v</sup>

**October 2014: Leach Accepted \$750 From The Dallas Eagle Forum PAC.** [Jeff Leach Campaign Finance Report, filed 10/27/14]<sup>ii</sup>

**October 2012: Leach Accepted \$500 From The Dallas Eagle Forum PAC.** [Jeff Leach Campaign Finance Report, filed 1/15/2013]<sup>ii</sup>

## LYNN STUCKY

Representative Stucky has spent his years in the Legislature fighting to allow businesses, healthcare providers, and adoption agencies to discriminate against LGBTQ Texans.

## They Said What?!

[Video] Stucky: It’s a “legitimate concern” that people may abuse trans-inclusive bathroom laws. [Lynn Stucky, [11/09/17](#)]

## Bills

Co-authored bills to:

- ✓ Stop local governments from banning discriminatory businesses [[SB 1978](#), [HB 3172](#)]
- ✓ Allow healthcare providers to refuse care based on religious beliefs [[HB 2892](#)]
- ✓ Allow adoption agencies to deny LGBTQ couples [[HB 3859](#)]
- ✓ Ban cities, schools, and colleges from protecting trans people’s rights to use the bathroom that matches their gender [[HB 46](#)]
- ✓ Overturn local laws that banned discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity [[HB 2899](#)]

Voted to:

- ✓ Stop local governments from banning discriminatory businesses [[SB 1978](#)]
- ✓ Ban transgender students from using the bathroom that matches their gender [[SB 2078, Amendment 2](#)]
- ✓ Allow adoption agencies to deny LGBTQ couples [[HB 3859](#)]

## Positions

Strongly disagreed that “business owners should be required by law to bake cakes, provide flower arrangements, etc., for same-sex weddings, even when these activities would infringe on their sincerely-held religious beliefs.” [iVoter Guide Questionnaire, accessed [6/04/20](#)]

Strongly agreed that “governments should define marriage as between one man and one woman; no other definition of marriage should be legalized or supported with public funds.” [iVoter Guide Questionnaire, accessed [6/04/20](#)]

## Who’s Funding Them?

**February 2018: Lynn Stucky Accepted \$2,000 From Koch Industries, Inc.** [Lynn Stucky Campaign Finance Report, filed 2/26/2018]<sup>iii</sup>

**September 2017: Lynn Stucky Accepted \$2,000 From Koch Industries, Inc.** [Lynn Stucky Campaign Finance Report, filed 1/16/2018]<sup>iii</sup>

## ANGIE CHEN BUTTON

Representative Button has spent her years in the Legislature fighting against laws designed to protect LGBTQ Texans from discrimination. She even used her power as Chair of the Urban Affairs committee to kill a bill that would have banned housing discrimination against the LGBTQ community.

## Bills

Co-Authored bills to:

- ✓ Strip county clerks of the ability to issue marriage licenses [[HB 1745](#)]
- ✓ Stop state and local money from being spent on same-sex marriage [[HB 4105](#)]
- ✓ Overturn local laws that banned discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity [[HB 2899](#)]
- ✓ Exempt some college student organizations from non-discrimination policies [[HB 428](#)]
- ✓ Allow county clerks to refuse to issue marriage licenses to LGBTQ couples [[HB 1813](#)]
- ✓ Allow religious organizations to discriminate against LGBTQ couples [[HB 3567](#)]

Voted to:

- ✓ Stop local governments from banning discriminatory businesses [[SB 1978](#)]
- ✓ Ban transgender students from using the bathroom that matches their gender [[SB 2078, Amendment 2](#)]
- ✓ Allow adoption agencies to deny LGBTQ couples [[HB 3859](#)]
- ✓ Exempt student organizations from a school’s non-discrimination policy [[SB 215, Amendment 31](#)]

Killed a bill to:

- ✓ Ban housing discrimination [[HB 188](#)]

## Positions

Strongly agreed that “marriage is a union of one man and one woman. No government has the authority to alter this definition.” [iVoter Guide Questionnaire, accessed [6/04/20](#)]

## Who’s Funding Them?

**November 2019: Button Accepted \$1,000 From Koch Industries, Inc. PAC.** [Angie Chen Button Campaign Finance Report, filed 1/14/2020]<sup>iii</sup>

**October 2016: Button Accepted \$200 From The Dallas Eagle Forum PAC Fund.** [Angie Chen Button Campaign Finance Report, filed 10/31/2016]<sup>ii</sup>

**February 2016: Button Accepted \$2,000 From Koch Industries, Inc. PAC.** [Angie Chen Button Campaign Finance Report, filed 2/22/2016]<sup>iii</sup>

**October 2012: Button Accepted \$750 From The Dallas Eagle Forum PAC Fund.** [Angie Chen Button Campaign Finance Report, 1/9/13]<sup>ii</sup>

## MORGAN MEYER

Representative Meyer has used his time in the State House supporting laws that allow businesses, schools, government, and adoption agencies to discriminate against LGBTQ Texas.

## Bills

Co-authored a bill to:

- ✓ Overturn local laws that banned discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity [[HB 2899](#)]

Voted to:

- ✓ Stop local governments from banning discriminatory businesses [[SB 1978](#)]
- ✓ Ban transgender students from using the bathroom that matches their gender [[SB 2078, Amendment 2](#)]
- ✓ Allow adoption agencies to deny LGBTQ couples [[HB 3859](#)]
- ✓ Allow county clerks to refuse to issue marriage licenses to LGBTQ couples [SB 522, in [committee](#)]

## Who’s Funding Them?

**October 2019: Meyer Accepted \$1,000 From Koch Industries.** [Morgan Meyer Campaign Finance Report, filed, 1/15/2020]<sup>iii</sup>

**October 2018: Meyer Accepted \$250 From The Dallas Eagle Forum PAC.** [Morgan Meyer Campaign Finance Report, filed 10/29/2018]<sup>ii</sup>

**October 2014: Meyer Accepted \$250 From The Dallas Eagle Forum PAC.** [Morgan Meyer Campaign Finance Report, 10/27/2014]<sup>ii</sup>

# STEVE ALLISON

Representative Allison has only spent one session in the State House, but didn't waste any time co-sponsoring and voting for legislation to protect discriminatory businesses in Texas.

## Bills

Co-sponsored a bill to:

- ✓ Stop local governments from banning discriminatory businesses [[SB 1978](#)]

Voted to:

- ✓ Stop local governments from banning discriminatory businesses [[SB 1978](#)]

## Positions

Strongly agreed “governments should not discriminate against individuals, organizations or small businesses because of their belief that marriage is only a union of one man and one woman.” [Texas Values Action Questionnaire, accessed [6/04/20](#)]

Disagreed “that people should be allowed to use public restrooms, showers, and changing rooms based on ‘gender identity.’” [Texas Values Action Questionnaire, accessed [6/04/20](#)]

i **Texas Values Opposed Marriage Equality In Texas.** According to Texas Values, “Our Texas Constitution, supported by 76% of Texas voters, defines marriage as between one man and one woman. Despite this overwhelming support, efforts to radically change the definition of marriage continue to grow. Activists judges, out of touch elected officials, and unaccountable bureaucrats seek to undermine the clear will of the people and subvert the Texas Constitution.” [Marriage & Family; Texas Values, accessed [4/21/20](#)]

ii **Eagle Forum On Marriage Equality: “We Oppose Same-Sex Marriages.”** According to Eagle Forum, “We oppose same-sex marriages, tax-funded abortions and drafting our daughters into military combat.” [Brochure; Eagle Forum, accessed [6/5/20](#)]

iii **Advocate: The Koch’s Funded ALEC, A Group That “Strongly Opposed LGBTQ Equality.”** According to the Advocate, “David and Charles Koch, two of four brothers, have been the primary leaders of Wichita, Kan.–based Koch Industries, a company they inherited from their father and expanded beyond its roots in oil refining to encompass consumer goods and more. They have used their considerable fortune to back conservative and libertarian causes and candidates, with the Times estimating they have spent at least \$100 million and possibly much more in this effort since the 1970s. [...] They also have funded the American Legislative Exchange Council, known by the acronym ALEC, a conservative group that drafts model legislation for states with the goals of cutting taxes, opposing gun restrictions, weakening labor unions, and repealing regulations on business. In addition, ALEC has drafted many laws criminalizing HIV exposure and, at least in its early years, strongly opposed LGBTQ equality. Recently it has teamed up with the anti-LGBTQ Alliance Defending Freedom to promote legislation that supposedly supports free speech on college campuses but would provide no protections for those who demonstrate against campus speakers, according to the Center for Media and Democracy.” [Advocate, [8/23/19](#)]

iv **November 2018: Cathie Adams Was The International Issues Chairwoman For The Eagle Forum.** According to Texas GOP Vote, “Cathie Adams currently serves as the ‘International Issues’ chairman for Eagle Forum and on the board of the national Eagle Forum. She previously served five years as president of the Dallas Eagle Forum and 16 years as president of the Texas Eagle Forum, until being elected chairman of the Republican Party of Texas in 2009. She was named by Campaigns and Elections magazine’s August 2010 issue as one of the top 50 Republican influencers in Texas.” [Texas GOP Vote, [11/19/18](#)]

v **Human Rights Campaign: “The Group Is Well Known For Their Far-Right Policies But We Now Know Their History Is Also Rooted In Demonizing LGBT Americans.”** According to the Human Rights Campaign, “ALEC is an organization with a long history of pushing harmful bills on legislatures across the country,” said Sarah Warbelow, Human Rights Campaign State Legislative Director. ‘The group is well known for their far-right policies but we now know their history is also rooted in demonizing LGBT Americans. There is a reason that ALEC has struggled in recent years – their vision is no longer one that resonates with mainstream Americans of either party.’ [Human Rights Campaign Press Release: “Far Right Organization Has Long Anti-Gay History,” [12/4/13](#)]