

Statement from the LGBTQ Quality of Life Advisory Commission to the City Manager Advisory Task Force

The LGBTQ Quality of Life Advisory Commission would like to see the following included in the skills, abilities, personal characteristics, and attributes that will be used to evaluate City Manager candidates.

Knowledge of issues affecting the LGBTQ community, including, but not limited to

- Violence – our community experiences violence at disproportionately high rates compared to the rest of the population.
- Employment and housing discrimination – due to sexual orientation and gender identity is legal in Texas, although the City of Austin has a comprehensive non-discrimination ordinance.
- Poverty – LGBTQ people experience high rates of unemployment, homelessness, and food insecurity.
- Health care – social stigmas associated with different sexual orientation and gender identity contribute to health disparities in our community.
- Public health – individual health disparities manifest in the broader community as communicable disease and substance abuse epidemics that require modern and targeted public health interventions.
- Discrimination in public accommodations – transgender and gender non-conforming individuals often encounter discrimination when using public restrooms and other gender-specific facilities

We would like all candidates to answer how they would address the issues above should they become City Manager; specifically if any such policies are in conflict with state or federal regulations.