

James Talarico Didn't Find God—He Found a Poll

James Talarico, the Democratic nominee for U.S. Senate in Texas, just told a Houston podcast that he opposes gender reassignment surgeries for minors. That's a big sentence. It's also a lie. Not in the sense that he didn't say it, but in the sense that he doesn't mean it.

Two years ago, Talarico stood in the Texas House and voted against SB14, the 2023 law that banned sex-change surgeries on children in the state. He called those surgeries "life-saving health care." He gushed publicly about how much he loved trans children for showing up at the Capitol. He called the effort to stop irreversible procedures on minors an act of cruelty.

Now he's running statewide against Ken Paxton, the Texas attorney general and the man who has spent years shutting down clinics that perform these procedures on kids. The general election is November 3, 2026. Texas is Texas.

So Talarico logged on to a podcast Monday and said, "I oppose gender reassignment surgeries for minors."

Just like that.

No explanation. No timeline of how his thinking evolved. No moment of conscience. His campaign didn't even respond to requests for comment. He said the thing he needs to say to win and walked off.



To order Jonathan Cahn's new book, The Altar of Pergamon, visit .

This is what political courage looks like in the Democratic Party right now: deciding that your actual convictions are too

unpopular and replacing them with whatever the polling says two months before a high-stakes election. Talarico isn't a man who changed his mind. He's a man who changed his math.

Paxton, to his credit, didn't miss the irony. During the primary, he was already calling his opponent "Six-gender Jimmy" and "James Talafreako." Trump piled on too, writing on Truth Social that Talarico "believes there are 6 genders." The attacks were blunt, but accurate.

If you want to understand why voters distrust politicians, this is the exhibit. Talarico didn't quietly update his views over months and then explain why. He reversed himself on one of the most charged issues in American politics, in one podcast appearance, with no context and no apology to the parents whose children were affected by the very policies he championed. The families in Texas who watched their state fight for three years to protect kids from irreversible surgeries now get to watch the man who opposed those protections tell a different audience what they want to hear.

Talarico built his whole brand on being authentically progressive. He's a Presbyterian seminary student who talks openly about faith. He was a public school teacher. He positioned himself as someone who says what he believes regardless of the cost. That persona is now fully exposed.

When the votes were cheap, he loved trans kids. When the votes get expensive, he opposes their surgeries.

None of this should surprise anyone who watched his trajectory through the 2026 campaign. After winning the Democratic primary, NBC News reported he was already walking back "cringey" comments and recalibrating for a general election audience. The man is a professional candidate running a general election campaign in a state where the progressive base that got him the nomination will not be enough to win.

That's his right. But voters have the right to notice. And

Republican voters in Texas especially have the right to ask: if he'll flip this fast on kids, what else is negotiable?

Talarico wanted to be the future of the Texas Democratic Party. He might still get there. But whatever he becomes, this week he showed exactly who he is.

He didn't find God. He found a poll.

This article originally appeared on American Faith and is reposted with permission.