



Candidate Endorsement Questionnaire

*The following questions present an opportunity to learn more about your views on key community issues and your vision for the City of Dallas. **Please complete and return no later than 11:59 PM on Monday, February 20, 2023.** All candidate questionnaires will be published on our website. Late questionnaires will not be accepted for endorsement evaluation.*

1. What are the top 3 issues facing your district?

1. Increasing housing costs and threats of displacement
2. Lack of livable wage jobs that don't require an unsustainable commute
3. Promoting public safety without over policing and police violence

2. What are the top 3 policy priorities you plan to advocate for in the first 90 days of your term?

1. Ensure the upcoming Housing Policy 2033 adoption is implemented efficiently and effectively
2. Support more pro-housing land uses and remove industrial zoning adjacent to neighborhoods and residents via the *ForwardDallas!* Comprehensive Land Use Plan update
3. Increase inter-governmental agency coordination to tackle public health crises like fentanyl abuse, advance transit issues like extending Dallas' Streetcar to South Dallas, and attract more economic and infrastructure-related investments to the southern sector

3. How have you contributed toward the reduction of crime and incarceration throughout your career?

We have now witnessed drops in both violent crime and arrests across Dallas. In the last two years, I have helped expand the RIGHT Care program to more appropriately respond to members of the community experiencing mental health crises. I have also led investments in our infrastructure like streets, sidewalks, and lighting to make neighborhoods across District 7 safer. By championing funding for LED lighting in high violent crime areas, crime has reduced by 40%.

4. What can a Councilperson do to affirm Black residents' trust in local government?

Councilmembers must first recognize the historical inequities wrought upon communities of color. Then, we must act and make decisions with transparency by reporting and explaining racial disparities across all socio-economic and public health outcomes. Then, we must align our policies and programs to close these gaps and communicate with the community on an ongoing basis to maintain trust.



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5. What will make your tenure on the council different from your predecessor's (if you are an incumbent, your previous term)? Specifically, what aspects of the previous two years would you like to see change/have done differently? What are your priorities going forward?

I am confident that I have continuing to bring a level of honesty and integrity to the District 7 council seat that has challenged me to raise the bar in every way. Constituent services, responsiveness, lack of vacancies on the district's boards and commissions, and showing up with boots on the ground to best serve my constituents' needs. I believe I always have places to grow and learn, but with the incredible group of appointees I have and the rock-star, service oriented staff I believe we have served District 7 well the past four years. I hope to gain more progressive voices and votes to our body to assist in the ability to pass real progressive policy and I look forward to continuing to serve well in my role as Chair of the Quality of Life, Arts, and Culture Council Committee.

6. What role, if any, does socio-economic status (housing, education, poverty, and transportation, for example) contribute toward public safety?

Residents who have access to equitable opportunities have greatly reduced correlation with both crime and victimization. It is no coincidence that the most affluent and invested in communities have the least amount of crime. Often areas with lack of resources and opportunities are coupled with high amounts of blight and severe lack of light which results in the highest crime areas statistically.

7. How do we remedy the historical and systemic injustices experienced by Black Americans in Dallas?

By investing economic development, infrastructure, and general fund dollars in the disinvested neighborhoods where Black people in Dallas have historically been concentrated through redlining, school attendance zones, and bad zoning.

8. As Dallas develops, affordable housing continues to be a pain-point in communities of color. Black communities and other communities of color are seeing themselves priced out of areas with generations of family history in order to welcome in expensive developments and more white, affluent residents. What are your plans for equitable development and protections for residents being disproportionately impacted by these projects?

The direct and immediate approaches of repair assistance and outright housing assistance are critical for encouraging aging in place. Single-family neighborhoods must have their zoning protected by implementing Neighborhood Stabilization Overlay protections, just like those protecting La Bajada, as a uniform part of single-family zoning. We must also expand "missing middle" housing options by legalizing more townhomes, condominiums, duplexes, and accessory dwelling units.



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9. The Black community experiences lower education performance compared to their peers. While the Dallas ISD board takes leadership over the schools, what opportunities do you see, from a city perspective, to support efforts made by our schools to close racial disparity gaps in educational attainment and proficiency scores?

Dallas ISD's biggest problem that the city can affect is the loss of students to charter schools, which costs Dallas ISD tens of millions of dollars a year and doesn't benefit the students. Charters require specific use permits under Dallas's zoning code. These SUPs have a legal standard that charters can never meet. No new SUPs should be issued and renewals should be viewed skeptically. We must also maintain constant communication with the district to avoid the situation that is unfolding right now in District 7 at the old Pearl C. Anderson Middle School, where a low bid was secured for a highly valued location and historic property.

10. Economic access and opportunity have continued to be issues politicians have campaigned on but have failed to completely deliver for the Black community. What are your plans to increase access to jobs, training, and other opportunities to ensure greater economic progress in the Black community?

1. Ring fencing economic development spending to areas of the city most capable of developing good jobs accessible to Black residents
2. Requiring affordable housing to be built in areas of opportunity
3. Continuing and expanding city efforts to put Black residents in City jobs both permanent and with city contractors, including the development of the future Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center and Fair Park renovations made possible by Proposition A's passage in November 2022.

11. Reliable and affordable transportation options are critical for the sustainable growth and development of communities. Whether it is DART, our major streets and thruways, or walking/biking paths, Black residents depend on access to build community, work, and thrive. What are your plans to improve effectiveness of and access to transportation for Black communities and residents?

DART must make a level of service guarantee to all residents in the service area of 1.5x car travel with high frequency bus and train service. I will only support DART board members who agree. The City also has to continue to prioritize multi-modal infrastructure improvements to connect mass transit to communities directly with bike lanes, trails and more green space.

12. Broadband internet, especially since the onset of COVID-19 pandemic, has become increasingly key to access education, the economy, and community. Many residents lack reliable access in a city where technology is available and the industry is thriving. What are your plans to increase affordable access to broadband internet for Black communities?

The City must continue to offer lifeline access through libraries and recreation centers. Long term, the the federal government should make broadband a regulated utility. Until then, the City should consider funding access for our poorest residents and advocate for more support from the State Legislature.



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13. Equity, as a focus area, continues to be part of the ongoing conversation around policy and advocacy. Please define equity and how the term guides your thinking on policy decisions.

Equity guides every one of my decisions I make at the horseshoe - as I hope it would for all my colleagues. To me, equity is both leveling the playing field for the future and righting past wrongs and injustices.

14. Environmental Justice is critical to elevating communities which have received a disproportionate share of the impact of industry and development. What have you done and/or plan to do to improve the environment and access to greenspace in Black Communities.

District 7 is leading the way in this regard. Not only have I helped shepherd the development of The Loop Trail through the district, we are also developing new park land like the 110 acres around Parkdale Lake in Southeast Dallas.

15. Maternal mortality among Black women is high compared to their counterparts, and access to essential health care materials and services is an ongoing challenge for Black women in particular. How have you worked to address this critical issue and/or plan to do so if elected.

I strongly support Black women and strive to empower their health care decisions. From protecting abortion access to advocating for birthing centers in District 7 like The Afiya Center, I will continue to listen and respond to the concerns of Black women.

Belief Statements

To what extent do you agree, or disagree, with the following statements? Please include a detailed explanation for your response.

1. Ensuring equitable access to the economy for all residents is a responsibility of the City Council.

Fully agree. Any attitude otherwise ensures failure of city government.

2. Socio-economic factors play a significant role in education, public safety, and public health.

Completely agree.

3. The future of a city depends on the collective advancement of all residents and all communities.



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This should be considered the definition of success for all city governments.

Thanks for completing our questionnaire. If there is anything else you'd like to share with voters about yourself or your campaign, please use the space below to do so: