



## 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 11:59PM 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?

Sustainable Housing

Jobs/Economic Development

Public Safety

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

Adopt a impactful and meaningful MWBE Procurement Policy

Mandate all contractors that receive city funding to offer health care benefits for all its employees.

Health Human Services Provide mental health access to all residents.

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

My previous contributions include working in disadvantaged and minority communities, securing funding to enhance the quality of life. I have also secured better working conditions for city employees and more hours for recreation programs, as well as funding to expand recreation centers.

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

To build trust in communities of color, Councilmembers must show up and listen. They can also ensure that translation is offered in multiple languages and that they are providing a forum for public comment in all neighborhoods.

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 would like to build a bigger coalition of neighbors to bridge the conversation between the community and City Hall. We have increased the minimum wage to \$15, and we must now ensure that all city staff, including contractors, have access to health care.



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

Hardship often leads to a higher crime rate in certain neighborhoods.

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

In order to reduce the inequities caused by urban highways, we should remove them and replace them with green spaces. We should continue to invest in parks and other public spaces, as well as local infrastructure such as schools and hospitals. People who live near these areas should be encouraged to participate in participatory budgeting practices so that they can have more of a say in how their tax money is spent.

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?

I will continue to fight for historic neighborhoods of color from real estate overtakes, as I did in Elm Thicket North Park. We must continue to invest and support workforce housing in high opportunity areas.

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?

Our Park and Recreation Department has extended its hours and partnered with Dallas ISD and area nonprofits to offer tutoring and homework help. The City of Dallas must work with our school board trustees, who are supportive of these initiatives. We need to continue working on safe routes to schools by improving our sidewalk infrastructure with DART.



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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?

I will work with the private sector and local community colleges to provide training for unskilled laborers, ensuring that they have the skills needed to secure employment.

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?

I am committed to making DART fare-free for all students. We need to concentrate on bringing jobs to the people, so they don't have to rely on DART. Improve mobility in regards to pedestrians and cyclists alike by constructing bike lanes and pedestrian walkways.

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?

We are making progress in our efforts to ensure that all Dallas Parks and Recreation facilities offer Wi-Fi. We need help from DISD in offering portable Wi-Fi hotspots and multiple devices for households with multiple students.

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.

Many people confuse equity with equality and unless we are able to acknowledge our past then one can not truly understand equity, which is fairness and justice. I have a clear understating that we all have different struggles and challenges and not everyone has the sane starting point.

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.



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I have committed to the 15-Minute Walk Challenge, a program aimed at making sure that every Dallasite lives within 15 minutes of a park or green space. I have worked with nonprofits to create access points to our Great Trinity Forest.

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 am challenging the city to implement a policy that will ensure all employees and contractors have access to health care. I have worked with hospital partners to bring more health care clinics to our residents, including Jubilee Park.

**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.

Yes, when it comes to city resources we must have procedures in place to ensure that everyone has access.

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

Absolutely, if we invest more in our communities will have a direct effect on the education and public health of area.

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

Agree. Dallas will be much better off if we can do this.

**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:**

I'm a lifelong resident of District 2, where my wife and I are now raising our daughter in the same neighborhood I grew up in. I grew up in East Dallas, where I attended Woodrow Wilson High School. Since then, I have had the opportunity to serve District 2 in various ways, including serving on the Dallas City Council for the past 2 years, Dallas Park and Recreation Board, where I worked for neighbors for more than seven years. Most recently I was able to help bring healing to the Santos Rodriguez family by memorializing Santos with a statute of his likeness in the very park that he played at as a boy. I've been committed to serving people my entire life, from my



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family's small business to working on policies to better the lives of many residents. I'm dedicated to all neighborhoods throughout the district, addressing issues from infrastructure, to housing to public safety to economic development. I believe every resident in Dallas deserves a high quality of life. We must do all we can to ensure we deliver those basic needs to have a thriving city.