



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?

- Public safety.
- Infrastructure gaps.
- Lack of quality affordable housing.

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

- I plan on advocating for an equitable distribution of resources throughout our city.
- I plan on advocating for equitable access to opportunities, regardless of one's zip code.
- I plan on working to create safe neighborhoods, quality amenities, and quality housing options.

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

Prior to serving on the city council, I served on the Dallas ISD school board where I advocated for the creation of the first-ever talented and gifted school in southeast Dallas County (School for the Talented and Gifted in Pleasant Grove). That school is now the best middle school in Dallas ISD and the number five elementary/middle school in the state of Texas. The better education a person receives, the lower their chances of committing crimes and ending up incarcerated.

Since being elected to the city council, I have been a strong advocate for equity and opportunity for all. Whether it was by amending the city code to increase access to government for underrepresented groups, advocating for increased internet access in high-need communities before and during the pandemic, riding my bicycle on every single street in the district to better identify infrastructure needs, or ending up in a high-speed chase during a ride-along with the Dallas Police Department while working to address the dangerous street racing situation in our community, my focus has been on improving the quality of life for every resident in our city.

While there is still much more work to do, I am proud that for the last two years District 5 has been the second safest district in Dallas in terms of overall crime.



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

A council member must first acknowledge this city's racist past then work to ensure that resources are distributed in an equitable manner. Additionally, council members must listen to the concerns, needs, and desires of Black residents then work to address those concerns and meet those needs and desires. Council members can also work to eliminate racial disparities and bias in policing to affirm Black residents' trust in local government.

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?

My overall increased knowledge and experience, and deeper relationship with the city manager and his staff will make my next tenure different from my previous term. If I could change something about the previous two years, I would have worked much sooner to ensure that my colleagues understood the significant value that our current city manager brings to the table. My priorities moving forward will continue to revolve around being a strong advocate for equity and opportunity for all.

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

Socioeconomic status contributes greatly to public safety. I grew up in southern Dallas surrounded by people who lived in poverty. Countless times, I witnessed poverty play a significant role in the decisions that people made to commit certain crimes. I strongly believe that if we could eradicate poverty, we would significantly improve public safety.

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

It's important that we recognize that the history of the community we serve includes intentional decisions that have led to racial and economic segregation that produced major inequalities that persist to this day.

Racial equity must be a central tenant in any policy discussion surrounding historical and systemic injustices experienced by certain communities in Dallas. We must address the atrocities of the past that continue to haunt us today, like slavery, segregation, Jim Crow laws, mass incarceration, and redlining, by heavily investing in the communities that have been impacted the most, particularly the Black community.

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?



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My plans for equitable development include working to break up concentrations of poverty and push for more affordable housing developments in areas of opportunity. During my time on council, I've worked to prevent increasing the number of low-income multifamily developments in District 5 while expanding the number of for sale single-family homes so that more people will have the opportunity to become homeowners and build generational wealth in southeast Dallas.

Regarding protections for long-time residents in rapidly gentrifying areas, I support reducing or freezing property taxes, or allowing homeowners whose taxes have rapidly grown to defer property tax payments until they sell their home.

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?

One way the city can support efforts made by local school districts to close racial disparity gaps in educational attainment and proficiency scores is by continuing its efforts to bridge the digital divide. In recent years, the city has expanded free wi-fi access at city facilities and launched several pilot projects that provide free internet access from street light poles in high-need communities.

Additionally, partnering with Dallas ISD on their initiative to provide community hubs could go a long way toward closing racial disparity gaps in educational attainment and proficiency scores. DISD's community hubs could be great places for after school programming and could help promote increased economic opportunity.

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 plan to continue advocating for programs like the city's newly created FreshStart Employment Program, which offers employment opportunities for individuals that have been impacted by the criminal justice system.
- I plan to continue advocating for increased internet access throughout our city.
- I plan to advocate for bond funds to be allocated by utilizing a racial equity lens.
- I plan to push for more affordable housing developments in areas of opportunity.
- I plan to work on limiting arrests for low-level, non-violent infractions and instead providing services to individuals facing poverty, homelessness, or mental health issues.

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



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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?

During the pandemic, I pulled out an old bicycle I had and started riding it throughout Southeast Dallas. I ended up riding my bicycle on every single street in District 5 while identifying crucial infrastructure needs. I personally submitted over 200 service requests to the city in order to address issues like potholes, broken sidewalks, trash, etc. Additionally, riding my bicycle almost daily greatly improved my mental and physical health. I am committed to significantly expanding the available bike infrastructure throughout the city of Dallas and increasing walkability in our neighborhoods. I am a firm believer that quality infrastructure is related to economic development, increased quality of life, higher property values, public safety, transportation, and more.

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?

Since being elected to council, I have been one of the strongest advocates for increased internet access. Prior to the pandemic, I successfully proposed a budget amendment to increase wi-fi hotspots in neighborhoods throughout Dallas that lack internet access. During the pandemic, I was tasked with leading the city's effort to provide internet access in various ways, like additional hotspots, wi-fi light poles, fiber optic, and free wi-fi at library parking lots. I am proud to say that other cities have now reached out to Dallas to learn more about our cross-departmental, data-driven approach to addressing the digital divide.

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 is about recognizing that because certain groups and communities have historically been ignored and treated unfairly, we must adjust for the imbalances and ensure that these groups and communities receive the attention and resources that they deserve. Equity is the foundation of my approach to governance.

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.

As a member of the city's Environment and Sustainability Committee, I am a strong supporter of environmental justice issues. I've agreed with requiring that concrete batch plants receive special use permits before being allowed to operate, approving millions of dollars on remediating the land that once held Shingle Mountain, installing air monitors throughout Dallas to gain better insight on neighborhood-level air quality, and reforming the city's land-use plan.



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With regard to improving access to greenspace, I've pushed for the acquisition of two large tracts of land in areas considered to be parks deserts in District 5 that have the potential to be converted into new parks with a housing component, I've begun discussions about a public-private partnership between a commercial landowner and the city's parks department to reclaim a portion of a largely unused parking lot in a long-ignored shopping center and turn it into an amenity for the community's use, and I've led the efforts for a first-of-its-kind "Integrated Community Development Project" in Dallas (which could include housing, an arts and technology center, a child care center, a clinic, and green space).

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've worked to address this important issue by advocating for policies and initiatives that consider the social determinants of health. My constant focus on equity includes addressing the social factors that influence maternal health such as unstable housing, transportation access, crime, and racial and economic inequality.

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.

Strongly agree. Ensuring equitable access to economic opportunities for all residents is one of the primary responsibilities of municipal government, and the foundation of my approach to governance.

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

Strongly agree. Socioeconomic status contributes greatly to public safety, public health, and the quality of one's education. I've had a front row seat throughout my life to the ways that socioeconomic status impacts each of the areas mentioned.

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

Strongly agree. A chain is only as strong as its weakest link. We must do everything within our power to ensure that communities that have been long neglected get the attention and resources that they deserve.

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:



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I am the only candidate with experience as an elected official and a history of making a significant, transformative impact on Southeast Dallas. I am also the only candidate in this race able to clearly articulate the issues our community is facing and offer specific solutions, and who can communicate and work well with all stakeholders, constituents, and council members to address the myriad issues our city faces.