



## **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?

Homelessness and Panhandling  
Increasing density  
Public safety

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

I plan to advocate for the adoption of policies regarding short term rentals, the comprehensive housing plan, and expanded racial equity planning. In addition, I will be continuing my work with the Esperanza area and Dallas International District as well as preparing for the 2023-24 budget and 2024 bond elections.

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

As Chair of the Workforce, Education and Equity Committee, I have worked tirelessly on racial equity planning within the City of Dallas as an employer and throughout the city. This includes efforts that address the systemic causes of crime and incarcerations; poverty and lack of hope. Additionally, the City has expanded pre-and post-incarceration programs such as Fresh Start, which is an employment program post-incarceration, as well as DPD programs to work with people pre-release.

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

A Councilperson must recognize historic injustices and listen. Then we must act with full integrity and keep our promises.



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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?

This term I will be able to act more swiftly due to the fact that I understand the system so much better. In terms of the Black community, I am actively working toward publicly acknowledging and protecting the Black history of north Dallas in partnership with Remembering Black Dallas, White Rock Cemetery, and Mt. Pisgah Church. For the present, I am working to ensure safe and affordable housing in the areas of District 11 that have a large Black population as well as build out a new Dallas ISD school that will enable area children to walk to school. For the future, I am strengthening our work in job creation, upskilling and investment opportunities, particularly in the Black community.

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

As mentioned in Q. 3, I know that there is a direct correlation between poverty and crime. Where there is no hope, there is less reason to stay within societies boundaries and laws. We must reach toward a future that gives everyone a chance from the place they are coming. This includes balancing out historic inequities in economic, housing, and educational opportunities.

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

First, we must acknowledge the injustices, then we must listen to the Black community, then we must include the community, and finally, we must invest in the remedies needed to bring equity.

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 am actively working on plans for affordable home ownership, rental and senior protections through the new Comprehensive Housing Plan. Additionally, we must put in gentrification protection ordinances to ensure that newly attractive areas which have been neglected by the City for decades to not "price out" current home



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owners. I believe there is untapped creativity in the existing communities that if included in new development could preserve existing housing and add value to new developments.

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?

As I continue to work on new schools such as the International District Academy, we must realize that attainment should be limited only by desire, not imagination or money. In practical terms it means that we must help student without family histories of high educational attainment to be able to picture themselves with whatever degree or certification they can dream of for themselves. We must expose them to experiences where they can expand their hopes for themselves, then we have to make sure the students have the tutoring and resources they need to achieve those dreams.

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?

As Chair of the Workforce, Education and Equity Committee I am working on myriad programs to increase access to jobs. In fact, we are working now on a regional apprenticeship program to offer even more options for jobs. We must look at each demographic and geographic group and determine the tools and measures needed for success. For example, are we looking at men or women from particular age groups in particular neighborhoods to see what they could do and what is available? Are we segmenting on a small enough scale to make real and sustainable change?

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?

My answer from 2021 still stands:

I am a big believer in public transportation and see it as a critical part of our overall infrastructure plan. We must also ensure our roads are properly maintained. Those who live farther away from the city for work should not be penalized simply because they must drive farther to work, and many of those roads need



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serious repair. We need more transportation options at affordable prices that are accessible to all residents. Our city has historically failed to provide affordable transportation options to Black residents and other people of color, and this failure has led to increased poverty, impaired access to jobs, unavailability of affordable and healthy food, as well as other problems. Reliable and affordable transportation is a quality-of-life issue for our Black communities, among others, and I hope to do what I can to address these gaps.

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?

CM Bazaldua and I are co-chairs of a task force of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to present option to council regarding “last mile and Middle mile” access throughout the city. While there are programs to help people afford internet, many locations literally do not have the bandwidth to offer what is needed for usage. Broadband ought to be seen as a transportation issue – it is vital and rightful infrastructure that every resident deserves.

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 understanding the need and providing opportunities to meet those needs that will then bring a person to par with those who have the most. Once the opportunity gap is closed, the potential is unlimited. In terms of policy it means we must invest in understanding those gaps and closing them. It's not giving the same to everyone, it's about knowing what everyone needs and finding ways to provide that.

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.

The privilege of sitting on the Environmental Committee has given me access to ways of service I never had before. The first step is to make sure no one is being polluted disproportionately and cleaning up those brownfield areas. Those are policy actions. The greenspace is a matter of engaging the community so they feel a sense of ownership in the greenspace within their communities and providing the support needed to develop that pride of ownership.



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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.

To be honest, I have not focused on maternal mortality as health care is a county role. That said, we are investing heavily in WIC Centers and job and financial training. I am open to ideas.

### **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.

Agree. Not only is it a human justice issue, but it is also a benefit for the entire city because the overall economy will become even stronger.

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

Agree. They play the entire role in education, public safety and public health.

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

Agree. On every level the better each of us does, the better all of us does. This is not a cliché, it is a statement of fact. The converse is also true, so if we do not ensure equity in every aspect of communal life, we will all have our lives diminished.

**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:**

Thank you for the opportunity to reflect on broad societal issues, and particularly the issues of the Black community.