



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?

Everyone deserves to live in a safe, clean, and affordable community with equitable access to the opportunities they need to thrive. The top 3 issues facing District 9 remain:

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

Paula's top priority as a councilmember is public safety. She knows smart, community and neighborhood focused policing programs are key to reducing crime for every neighborhood because she listens to our concerns.

That's why Paula has continued to support Dallas' new Police Chief Eddie Garcia and the Mayor's Task Force on Safe Communities' recommendations.

LOW TAXES

Paula has voted every year for four years to reduce Dallas' tax rate, including the largest tax cut in 40 years most recently. She will work hard to keep our taxes low, while ensuring transparency and accountability in the city budget even with the economic challenges posed by the pandemic.

IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE

In her first two terms on the city council, Paula fought to improve our quality of life in East Dallas with a heavy emphasis on protecting and improving White Rock Lake. An engineering firm is already working on how to dredge White Rock Lake, while working with community partners and neighbors to protect green space. Paula will continue to get results that improve our quality of life.

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

Within the first 90 days of my term, the top 3 policy priorities I plan to advocate for are:

- Housing the City's unhoused population and preserving housing affordability;
- Continue to support Dallas Police Chief Eddie Garcia's downward trend of arrests and violent crime;
- Protect and beautify White Rock Lake, the gem of East Dallas and continue to find funding to repair our roads and build trails like The Loop



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In addition, I will continue working with my community leaders on their issues that affect their quality of life in their community and plan to fix the cumbersome permitting process and flush the backlog of building permits and inspections. Bottom line, I will continue to listen to neighborhoods and deliver practical solutions to our quality of life issues.

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

I have supported funding that:

- Puts police officers back on the street
- Adds or enhances street lighting in high crime locations
- Remediate blighted buildings, abandoned lots and illegal dumping in high-violence locations
- Partners with violence interrupters
- Alleviates the drivers of poverty

Safer communities are more than putting cops on the streets. Increasing patrols (which this amendment did), is one strategy to reduce crime. Increasing lighting in blighted areas is another strategy. Thankfully, in District 9, we are already seeing these investments pay off as violent crime statistics have fallen in every major category.

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

As City leaders, Councilmembers have a number of ways to affirm Black residents' trust in local government. First, we can use our platforms to speak out against historical and ongoing injustices against the Black community. Second, we can evaluate existing practices, fees and fines, and other outdated policies that disproportionately affect Dallas' Black residents. Third, we can collaborate with Black leaders across the City of Dallas to achieve more equitable outcomes. I am proud of the relationships I have formed with all members of Dallas' City Council and look forward to continuing to work with Black leaders like District Attorney John Creuzot, Judge Eric Moye, and Congresswoman Jasmine Crockett.

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 strive to build consensus among the Mayor, City Manager, and Council colleagues. This is especially important to address important issues like affordable housing, economic development and growing our middle class. In addition to the priorities discussed earlier, a top priority is building consensus, so that we can improve access, equity, and transparency at City Hall and focus on finding real solutions for our neighborhoods.

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



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Socio-economic status contributes heavily towards public safety, and we must do more as a City to ensure all of our residents' needs are being met. Without adequate housing, education, and mobility options being made readily available to all socio-economic classes, we will continue to see Dallas' cycles of generational poverty continue. This, along with the lasting effects of systemic racism, directly leads to crime and other outcomes we must reduce to both enhance public safety and promote economic mobility.

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

There are four key steps to remedying the historical and systemic injustices experienced by Black Americans in Dallas. In order, they are: apology and acknowledgement, qualified and quantified study, investment, and healing. First, we have to recognize Dallas' dark history of violence against Black Americans. Ensuring the Memorial to Victims of Racial Violence is built tactfully and as timely as possible is one step in the right direction to doing this. Second, the City of Dallas should continue collaborating with organizations like Dallas Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation to document and analyze Black Americans' history and contributions to our city. This should include but not be limited to studying how the city can make longtime residents and communities of color whole again. Third, the City of Dallas must keep equity at the forefront when allocating its budget, bonds, and other funding mechanisms. This re-investment is essential to closing many of the racial disparities our city is facing. Finally, when these tough conversations are had citywide, we can begin the process of healing.

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?

Dallas is suffering from a housing shortage and a lack of affordable housing. The City took the first steps of addressing the housing crisis by passing its first comprehensive housing policy/framework and completing a Market Value Analysis (MVA) in 2018. However, we are already in the process of adopting a new City Housing Policy 2033 with more specific goals and tools to create more housing of all types. It is critical that the City uses economic development and housing tools such as rehabilitating existing substandard housing without continually displacing residents by implementing policy recommendations such as property tax freezes, homestead exemptions, incentivized inclusionary zoning, and community land trusts.

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?



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I firmly believe in the importance of coalition building with Dallas ISD and because of my experience with both the city and the school district, I feel that I am uniquely qualified to continue serving as the City Councilmember for District 9. If re-elected, I will continue to work collaboratively with Dallas ISD and City of Dallas staff using data driven research (ex: Child Poverty Action Lab's Community Resource Index) to make strategic and informed decisions about the needs of our schools. Staff from both entities will work and collaborate to ensure that the needs of each neighborhood school are uniquely addressed so that we can best serve our communities. I am a parent of Woodrow Wilson graduates – I fully support Dallas ISD and am always looking for new ways that we can improve services and access to our students.

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 previously mentioned in the redirected funds to address drivers of poverty, the City of Dallas must step up to increase access to jobs, training, and other opportunities to ensure economic progress in the Black community. While our higher education institutions like Dallas College, UNT-Dallas, and Paul Quinn College make significant strides, we must now work with corporate, philanthropic, and nonprofit organizations alike to ensure there are jobs waiting for them on the other side of the talent pipeline. We must also build more housing around transit stations, including bus and rail, so residents can both afford to live in the City and commute without having to own a car. This comprehensive approach will help ensure we leave fewer of our Black residents behind.

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?

There are a number of positive actions taking place in the transportation space. We are in the process of updating the 2011 Bike Plan, implementing a Sidewalk Master Plan, and advancing the City's first-ever Strategic Mobility Plan. DART has also re-designed its bus routes and conversations surrounding I-345, I-30, and the D2 Subway evolve regularly. As the biggest contributor to DART, Dallas must wield the greatest weight in their decision making process. DART must work towards more transportation equity by providing transportation to jobs and daily necessities in a reasonable timeframe. If re-elected to the Dallas City Council, I will encourage DART to lower fares, increase stops and create more routes to efficiently move people around Dallas. The Dallas City Council also needs to hold DART accountable for its use of taxpayer dollars by ensuring that they are responding to the needs of the community.

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?



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There are also a number of overdue initiatives taking place in the broadband access space. First, City leaders like Councilmember Resendez foresaw the need to expand wireless hotspot distributions from our libraries. Then, COVID hit, and the Internet For All coalition formed. This coalition, made up of more than 40 community leaders including Chief Technology Officers from nine Dallas County school districts, The Dallas Regional Chamber, City of Dallas, the Dallas Innovation Alliance and the Federal Reserve Bank, has worked tirelessly over the past few years to create a one-stop shop and telephone line for those needing internet access. Now, Dallas ISD is working to build cell towers of their own to provide WiFi around its schools. Moving forward, the City of Dallas must double down on its investment and pool resources with other community partners to increase Black communities' access to affordable broadband internet.

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.

I remain very cognizant of the importance of equity and will continue to keep it in mind throughout my decision-making processes. It is one of the reasons why I support creating mixed-income communities throughout Dallas because low-moderate income residents need to be less housing burdened and have access to high-opportunity areas and more amenities.

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.

I have continued to support both by Park and Recreation Board appointee (Maria Hasbany) and Environmental Commission appointee (Kathryn Bazan, Chair) as they expand green-, and blue-, space development opportunities and mitigate the impacts of industrial zoning. We have successfully rewritten how Dallas vets batch plant applications, as another example.

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 most recently led the charge at Dallas City Hall in support of providing free pads and tampons for any resident who needs them. Twenty-five percent of women are in period poverty, and it doesn't need to be that way. I will continue to be sensitive to the needs of all female-passing individuals, including Black women, and expand services and programs where possible to be more racially inclusive and equitable.

Belief Statements

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



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

Strongly agree. Any amount of people that we are leaving behind by failing to prepare for the evolving economy will equate to opportunity cost and drain even more public resources down the road. We must invest on the front end.

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

Strongly agree. Discussed in-depth previously. Mixed-Income communities improve all indicators including crime rates.

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

Strongly agree. A city's strength should be measured by how it treats its most vulnerable and marginalized. A rising tide will raise all boats, beginning by helping those who have been drowning the longest.

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: