



## **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?

-Short Term Rentals: They deprive long-term residents of affordable housing, bring crime and degrade neighborhood quality of life.

-Affordability of housing: Appreciation of real estate values has made much housing in D14 unattainable for lower to middle income residents.

- Policing: While Dallas has reduced violent crime two years in a row (the only city in top 10 nationally to do so), we must continue to allocate needed resources to public safety while holding police accountable for results and equitable treatment of minorities. People of color are facing higher rates of over-policing and are subjected to police violence. In my first campaign, I advocated for decriminalizing marijuana possession of less than 2 ounces to address the disparate enforcement against minorities, a policy which DPD subsequently adopted.

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

-Classifying STRs as lodging so they will not be permitted in residential districts.

-Continue advocating for affordable housing incentives to build more workforce housing

-Continue advocating for environmental sustainability and equity by converting city vehicle fleet to electric power, adding solar power to city buildings and transitioning polluting gas-powered lawn equipment to electric.

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

-Advocated for decriminalization of low-level drug offenses.

-Supported full funding for public safety while on Council.

-Supported substantial funding on Council for blight abatement, better street lighting in high crime areas and violence interrupters to prevent crime.

-Supported Rapid Rehousing Program on Council to rehouse homeless people to reduce their need to commit crimes and prevent them being victims of crime.

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



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-By supporting the Community Police Oversight Board's role in investigating complaints of police misconduct and advocating for more resources for that Office (which I have done).

-By supporting implementation of the Racial Equity Plan (which I voted for) in all services the City provides.

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 will continue fighting for these priorities:
- Ensuring economic and efficient delivery of city services.
  - Protecting neighborhoods.
  - Promoting affordable housing.
  - Promoting economic development and jobs in Dallas.
  - Ensuring transparency, equity and inclusiveness in city decision-making.
  - Promoting effective transportation options.
  - Enhancing quality of life by promoting walkability, green space and sense of place through quality urban design.
  - Implementing CECAP and mitigating climate change and pollution.
6. What role, if any, does socio-economic status (housing, education, poverty, and transportation, for example) contribute toward public safety?
- It has a huge role. People that face hardships typically are at a higher risk of being victims of crime.
7. How do we remedy the historical and systemic injustices experienced by Black Americans in Dallas?
- We must continue to invest in addressing racial equity by implementing the Racial Equity Plan and listening to resident's needs by following participatory budgeting practices.
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?
- We must protect historic neighborhoods of color from real estate predators through programs to address gentrification. This can be done through sensible zoning measures as was recently done in the Elm Thicket neighborhood (for which I voted), increases in the homestead exemption (for which I voted) and city



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home repair programs to allow low-income residents to stay in their neighborhoods (which I have voted for).

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?
  - The Park & Recreation Department has worked with Dallas ISD and area nonprofits on tutoring and homework help. The city can take provide safe routes to school and allocate funds to keep sidewalks in good repair.
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?
  - The city can use economic incentives to retain employers in Dallas and attract new employers, setting conditions on hiring existing Dallas residents and providing job training programs for those in need. It needs to do a better job of using such incentives to locate jobs in areas of higher unemployment to avoid long commutes to find work.
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?
  - To reduce dependence on mass transit by creating jobs and shopping opportunities in communities of color and advocating to make transportation systems work better, such as DART's new Zoom bus line reorganization.
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?
  - All Dallas Parks and many City facilities now offer Wi-Fi. AT&T and Spectrum make available discounted internet service under a federal access program with coverage of most of Dallas. DISD also needs to continue to offer portable Wi-Fi hotspots.
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.
  - The new City Racial Equity Plan contains a thoughtful discussion of what equity means. I supported the adoption of the Racial Equity Plan and incorporation of its principles of equity into an amended Housing Policy. Those principles must be considered in all city policy decisions.



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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.

-See response to Question 2. We must rezone areas where polluting industry adversely affects minority neighborhoods, such as concrete batch plants in the southern sector and the GAF shingle plant in W. 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.

-Public health services are the responsibility of County government, not city. As a result the city has no public health programs. I recently voted for a City of Dallas resolution supporting reproductive health care for 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.

-The City Council has a major role to play in ensuring equitable access through enforcement of anti-discrimination ordinances and providing incentives for employers to bring jobs to where they are needed. Private employers also have an important role in making jobs available on an equitable basis.

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

-Agree.

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

-Agree.

**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:**