



**Stonewall
Questionnaire
E-Booklet**

March 21, 2021



Dallas City Council District 4

Trustee Maxie Johnson

Your background and the LGBTQ community

Please share any experience that illustrates your understanding of and interest in the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in your District. *I have been an advocate for equity and inclusion as private citizen as an elected official. I not only ensure LGBTQ+ students and staff have a voice in District 5, I empower it. In the southern part of town we need to do a better job of amplifying voices of the unheard, and I'll do that as a councilmember.*

As an organization affiliated with the Texas Democratic Party, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will only endorse candidates who affirm an affiliation with the platform and policies of the Texas Democratic Party. Do you make such an affirmation? What is your previous voting history? *I'm a lifelong Democrat and have only voted in Democratic primaries.*

Creating an inclusive community

As a member of the Dallas City Council, how would you work to ensure that the City of Dallas - as an employer and as a representative of its residents - actively includes those who identify as LGBTQ+? *We need to be a city government that not only accepts differences, we should find ways to ensure that we have the most diverse voices in the room making decisions for the citizens of Dallas. I'll ensure that we are doing just that, particularly from marginalized communities within the LGBTQ+ community, such as black Trans women. I will consistently be advocate urging for a unique collection of voices guiding Dallas' future.*

What would you do to ensure that qualified LGBTQ+ candidates are encouraged to seek employment on your staff and as staff of the City of Dallas? How would you work to include the LGBTQ+ community in your appointments to boards and commissions? *As stated above, I'll work with city leadership to ensure we have employees that represent the whole of our city. I'll rely on organizations like Stonewall and trustee community members who have urged me to run in deciding on a diverse array of appointments to boards and commissions.*

Do you support a ban on LGBTQ+ employment discrimination by the State of Texas? How would you work to convince lawmakers in Austin to support such a ban on behalf of your constituents? *Yes. I'll lobby my Austin leadership to seek such a ban. As a person who prides himself on community empowerment and engagement I'll educate my community on the issues confronting the LGBTQ+ community and urge them to also push elected officials in Austin to make good on the Texas Constitution's promise that "All free (people), when they form a social compact, have equal rights (under the law)."*

The transgender, gender non-binary, and intersex communities often face specific healthcare needs not included in employer-sponsored healthcare coverage. How will you work to make sure that the needs of LGBTQ+ employees are met in your city? *Yes. We have to achieve full equity in healthcare access for everyone-period. I'll work with city staff to better understand if and how legal barriers can be overcome to achieve equity on this issue.*



Current Events

The Texas State Legislature continues to debate and adopt laws which restrict local control on many issues, including protections for the LGBTQ+ community. How would you see your city respond to these changes? *The city needs to continue to push Austin to do what's right for all Texas, but where they will not, I will urge the city to pass progressive policy that supports and protect the LGBTQ+ community.*

What are a few bills you are currently watching in Texas' 87th Legislative Session? How would these proposed laws affect the constituents of your district, especially the LGBTQ+ community? *Most bills I am monitoring deal with the COVID-19 pandemic and education currently. Based on the crimes against black Trans women in District 4, I believe its past time for our legislature to take up appropriate legislation that would help protect people from the kinds of violent crime we have seen.*

in your opinion, what needs to happen in the upcoming redistricting cycle? *We need to have an equitable process that involves all of the city. We should have community meetings that encompass all demographics and geography of our city. As councilmember, I will ensure we have a diverse community advocating for a fair process that ensures we do not dilute marginalized communities electoral prospects.*

Homelessness has and continues to have a significant impact on the LGBTQ+ community and our neighbors across North Texas. How would you rate your city's current response to homelessness? How would you alter or expand these efforts? *We have to do more. I have seen firsthand as a trustee where over 2500 students sleep on either in on our streets, in a shelter, or with a friend. Our city has a needs to create a truly robust plan that expands on Mayor Rawlings initial plan from McKinsey. We need to use abandoned buildings and other public spaces to create temporary or permanent housing_solutions for all of our citizens.*

What do you think needs to be done to ensure the demand for Housing Affordability for LGBTQ+ Seniors are met? *Housing insecurity for LGBTQ+ seniors in our city is unacceptable. We must work proactively with organizations like City Square, Promise House and others like organizations to create sustainable solutions for mixed income developments for LGBTQ+ seniors. I would welcome such a mixed used development in District 4.*

Income inequality continues to grow and impact life in North Texas. How would you rate your city's current response to the needs of low- and middle-income residents, particularly wage growth and affordable housing? How would you alter or expand these efforts? *There is a widening gap between the haves and have nots in Dallas that has not been adequately addressed by city leadership. Currently, I would rate the city's attention and response to this issue low, particularly in District 4. My neighborhoods lack access to basic resources like a fresh grocery stores, good paying jobs, and affordable, safe housing. I will be a fierce advocate for equitable investments in parts of our city that have not experienced the boom of economic success. I'll advocate for the expanding of TIFs in the southern part of town and transit oriented development near our bus and train stations. Additionally, I will push the city staff to create a real plan to tackle equitable development across Dallas, but particularly in District 4.*

How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media? *I would proudly put the logo of Stonewall on my material.*

What are your expectations of the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas, should you receive our endorsement? *If the campaign is able to receive this endorsement, we hope for connections in my community, walkers on our campaign, and helping finance our efforts.*



I, **MAXIE JOHNSON**, am seeking an endorsement from the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas for the 2021 Dallas City Council elections.

signed

Signed

Whixiel Isham

Date 2/6/21



Lelani Russell

Your background and the LGBTQ community

Please share any experience that illustrates your understanding of and interest in the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in your District.

Although I identify as a straight black woman I consider myself to be fluid

As an organization affiliated with the Texas Democratic Party, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will only endorse candidates who affirm an affiliation with the platform and policies of the Texas Democratic Party. Do you make such an affirmation? What is your previous voting history?

Since I was 19 years old I have been a registered voter and Democrat.

Creating an inclusive community

As a member of the Dallas City Council, how would you work to ensure that the City of Dallas - as an employer and as a representative of its residents - actively includes those who identify as LGBTQ+?

I currently work for a company called Genpact that is completely inclusive and let's people be themselves totally and freely without judges and even celebrates them. I will advocate for those same things to be emulated in and around my city. I want to be a candidate for all

What would you do to ensure that qualified LGBTQ+ candidates are encouraged to seek employment on your staff and as staff of the City of Dallas? How would you work to include the LGBTQ+ community in your appointments to boards and commissions?

I am an advocate and will make sure that everyone interested has the opportunity to possibly be on a board as well as apart of my staff regardless of identity.

Do you support a ban on LGBTQ+ employment discrimination by the State of Texas? How would you work to convince lawmakers in Austin to support such a ban on behalf of your constituents?

Most definitely

The transgender, gender non-binary, and intersex communities often face specific healthcare needs not included in employer-sponsored healthcare coverage. How will you work to make sure that the needs of LGBTQ+ employees are met in your city?

I will advocate for them to get the proper care they need and for policies to be in place that ensure these things.

Current Events

The Texas State Legislature continues to debate and adopt laws which restrict local control on many issues, including protections for the LGBTQ+ community. How would you see your city respond to these changes?



I want to first say that I fully support the LGBTQ + community in every way. I believe that they deserve equity and I will stand proudly in the gap to ensure they receive it. As a double minority I understand being disenfranchised. I plan to advocate and stand up to ensure that LGBTQ+ hate is not accepted and there is full protection for everyone.

What are a few bills you are currently watching in Texas' 87th Legislative Session? How would these proposed laws affect the constituents of your district, especially the LGBTQ+ community?

In your opinion, what needs to happen in the upcoming redistricting cycle?

What i feel needs to happen and my job will be to appoint someone to that committee to ensure that the lines are not drawn to help a private agenda. I want to ensure that communities are not split in half like that of Singing hills that has Casey Thomas and Tennessee Atkins as Council member of one housing association.

Homelessness has and continues to have a significant impact on the LGBTQ+ community and our neighbors across North Texas. How would you rate your city's current response to homelessness? How would you alter or expand these efforts?

I feel as though my city currently lacks a real response for homelessness. I have been advocating and supporting the homeless all around Dallas for about 8 years now. I would like to actually create an effective task force that helps provide adequate care facilities, work stations, and clean up areas, as well as housing our some sort of safe zone for the homeless in my community that they can not be kicked out of and will have resources and real help.

What do you think needs to be done to ensure the demand for Housing Affordability for LGBTQ+ Seniors are met?

There is a new housing plan this will be finalized in May. I plan to advocate now and coming in I want to make sure that it is revisited and that the issue around LGBTQ+ Seniors is thoroughly looked in to. I plan to advocate as an elected official for all and will ensure that the LGBTQ+ plus Seniors get as much and are treated the same as everyone else.

Income inequality continues to grow and impact life in North Texas. How would you rate your city's current response to the needs of low- and middle-income residents, particularly wage growth and affordable housing? How would you alter or expand these efforts?

I am currently a single mother that lives paycheck to paycheck. Recently I received a raise that placed me in a higher taxbracket making my take home really about to little to nothing. I will advocate for wage increases and living expenses to not increase. I will advocate right now for a rent moratorium to help people currently get out of this pandemic and not get evicted. I will also advocate for income based rent , that allows you to live in decent housing conditions while actually paying within your means.

How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media?

I will proudly place the endorsement on my website as well as my social media.

What are your expectations of the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas, should you receive our endorsement?

I welcome any monetary or in-kind donations to my campaign. Specifically I need money to cover the cost of campaign mailers to voters in my district. I would also like and accept volunteers willing to phone bank and/or knock on doors.



I, **Lelani Russell**, am seeking an endorsement from the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas for the 2021 Dallas City Council elections.

Signed *Lelani Russell* Date 03/01/2021



Matthew Canto

Your background and the LGBTQ community

Please share any experience that illustrates your understanding of and interest in the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in your District.

Having worked in the Oak Lawn and Cedar Springs area, I was afforded the opportunity to understand the plight of the LGBTQ+ community through their personal experiences. I learned of the hopes and fears that are experienced as being a member of the community. As citizens of Dallas, it is our responsibility to be tolerant and respectful to our fellow neighbor regardless of how one identifies. Ultimately, with understanding, compassion, and love for the LGBTQ+ community will allow the entire district to thrive. In light of what our county is experiencing, safety is essential to the LGBTQ+ community. Members should not be singled out for violence and cruelty.

As an organization affiliated with the Texas Democratic Party, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will only endorse candidates who affirm an affiliation with the platform and policies of the Texas Democratic Party. Do you make such an affirmation? What is your previous voting history?

Yes. I am a member of the Texas Democratic Party and have Democratically my complete voting history.

Creating an inclusive community

As a member of the Dallas City Council, how would you work to ensure that the City of Dallas - as an employer and as a representative of its residents -actively includes those who identify as LGBTQ+?

I will actively campaign for to Texas adopt TitleVII giving equal employment opportunities and protection offered to other minority groups.

What would you do to ensure that qualified LGBTQ+ candidates are encouraged to seek employment on your staff and as staff of the City of Dallas? How would you work to include the LGBTQ+ community in your appointments to boards and commissions?

Actively recruit within LGBTQ+ organizations. This will be two-fold because it will allow for an educational opportunity as well as an employment opportunity.

Do you support a ban on LGBTQ+ employment discrimination by the State of Texas? How would you work to convince lawmakers in Austin to support such a ban on behalf of your constituents?

Yes. As an African American man, I have faced discrimination on a daily basis. No one should have to live in fear of those who are sworn to protect us or those in our neighborhoods. The constitution states that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

The transgender, gender non-binary, and intersex communities often face specific healthcare needs not included in employer-sponsored healthcare coverage. How will you work to make sure that the needs of LGBTQ+ employees are met in your city?



I will leverage my relationships in the business community, state lawmakers, and lobbyist to ensure insurance companies will not be able to operate within the state if they do not intend to represent the LGBTQ+ community.

Current Events

The Texas State Legislature continues to debate and adopt laws which restrict local control on many issues, including protections for the LGBTQ+ community. How would you see your city respond to these changes?

What are a few bills you are currently watching in Texas' 87th Legislative Session? How would these proposed laws affect the constituents of your district, especially the LGBTQ+ community?

George Floyd Act: This legislation will ensure that everyone has an opportunity for fair treatment at the hands of those who are sworn to protect and serve. This is essential to the LGBTQ+ community because it will allow for officers to be held accountable for their actions via body cam.

Legalization of marijuana: Allows marijuana for medicinal usage instead of the traditional opioids that are being prescribed to patients for pain maintenance

Banning discrimination against conversion therapy: Individuals should have the right to live their truth and be their authentic selves.

In your opinion, what needs to happen in the upcoming redistricting cycle?

Glen Oaks should be drawn out of District 4. The residents of the Glen Oaks do not face the same issues. This will allow me to concentrate on what is best for the entire district.

Homelessness has and continues to have a significant impact on the LGBTQ+ community and our neighbors across North Texas. How would you rate your city's current response to homelessness? How would you alter or expand these efforts? The current response to homelessness in Dallas must be better.

I would continue to partner with organizations and corporations within Dallas to continue to bring resources to the community. More importantly, we must end housing discrimination so our citizens can have suitable shelter.

What do you think needs to be done to ensure the demand for Housing Affordability for LGBTQ+ Seniors are met?

There needs to be an expansion of the voucher program. It offsets the cost of renting an apartment making it affordable. Also ending job discrimination will give the community and seniors a better earning potential there by opening up more opportunities for housing.

Income inequality continues to grow and impact life in North Texas. How would you rate your city's current response to the needs of low-and middle-income residents, particularly wage growth and affordable housing? How would you alter or expand these efforts?

The current response is insufficient. I would collaborate with lobbyists and state legislators to guarantee fair wages and ensure we are utilizing the affordable housing that is currently available within our District.

How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media?

Ultimately Stonewall's agenda is my agenda. If I am endorsed or not, I will work closely with Stonewall to ensure their ideologies are heard.



What are your expectations of the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas, should you receive our endorsement? My expectation is that we continue to have conversations concerning LGBTQ+ community.
It is my hope that Stonewall will continue educate and partner with me to improve the quality of life.

I, Matthew Canto, am seeking an endorsement from the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas for the 2021 Dallas City Council elections.

Signed: Matthew Canto Date: 03/18/2021



Johnny Aguinaga

Your background and the LGBTQ community

Please share any experience that illustrates your understanding of and interest in the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in your District.

As an organization affiliated with the Texas Democratic Party, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will only endorse candidates who affirm an affiliation with the platform and policies of the Texas Democratic Party. Do you make such an affirmation? What is your previous voting history?

Creating an inclusive community

As a member of the Dallas City Council, how would you work to ensure that the City of Dallas - as an employer and as a representative of its residents - actively includes those who identify as LGBTQ+? Answer: This subject falls under my advocacy for Human Rights. Any opportunity that relates to a committee or Board should go to the most experienced and passion for that position.

What would you do to ensure that qualified LGBTQ+ candidates are encouraged to seek employment on your staff and as staff of the City of Dallas? How would you work to include the LGBTQ+ community in your appointments to boards and commissions? Answer : In District 4, we have much work to do. I plan on reaching out to all community leaders that associate with LGBT+ and find the right fit in our District needs. Meetings should follow as a regular event every 2 months to make sure City of Dallas is inclusive in every aspect.

Do you support a ban on LGBTQ+ employment discrimination by the State of Texas? How would you work to convince lawmakers in Austin to support such a ban on behalf of your constituents? Answer: The only way to get the State Law makers attention is by the Vote. I will encourage law makers that we are the Voters and advocate for fair laws that do not discriminate in any type of shape or form.

The transgender, gender non-binary, and intersex communities often face specific healthcare needs not included in employer-sponsored healthcare coverage. How will you work to make sure that the needs of LGBTQ+ employees are met in your city?

Answer: With outstanding LGBT+members I have as Friends on the Council, I will partner and support and try to add on any policy that will help with the matter at the City level.

Current Events

The Texas State Legislature continues to debate and adopt laws which restrict local control on many issues, including protections for the LGBTQ+ community. How would you see your city respond to these changes?

Answer: As a Council, I will find ways to dialogue with the State Lawmakers. There has to be an open communication with state and City as they ultimately fall back to all our LGBT+ residents.

What are a few bills you are currently watching in Texas' 87th Legislative Session? How would these proposed laws affect the constituents of your district, especially the LGBTQ+ community? Answer:I have been watching Jessica Gonzalez fights as she



introduces bills that would provide protections for LGBTQ Texans from discrimination in employment, public accommodations and housing.

In your opinion, what needs to happen in the upcoming redistricting cycle?

Answer: We need to look at Housing Incomes, ethnicity and gender associations. It should be a equal mix to have a fair turnout at every election.

Homelessness has and continues to have a significant impact on the LGBTQ+ community and our neighbors across North Texas. How would you rate your city's current response to homelessness? How would you alter or expand these efforts?

Answer: ZERO, besides the facility that Adam Medrano championed a while back in his district 2 for young LGBTQ+. Homelessness has always been my worry and concern. Housing must be provided as I have knowledge that many young LGBTQ are more likely to get kicked out their home at alarming rate. We need to create a YMCA type housing for our youth.

What do you think needs to be done to ensure the demand for Housing Affordability for LGBTQ+ Seniors are met?

Answer: As a Council, I would look at all the tools available as far as funding and the perimeters we have to follow to fund or partner with third parties to build units. What i cannot do as Council, I am confident I can help align non profits and organizations to step in.

I will do all in my elected position to see housing done asap. We as City have land that we can sell to non profits that are for the cause for \$1.00 if the housing proposed is aligned with the LGBTQ needs.

Income inequality continues to grow and impact life in North Texas. How would you rate your city's current response to the needs of low- and middle-income residents, particularly wage growth and affordable housing? How would you alter or expand these efforts?

Answer: We as City cannot help the low income by building only for the Middle class. This is a subject that needs attention as I have spoken about this on several occasions. We must help our low income families so they too can prosper as no one has accomplished building mass units for the low income families. I will fight to have funds go to my District 4 for more low income housing. Everyone deserves to own a home without paying a developer double there amount for the sake of the ECONOMY.

How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media?

Yes, I will support and show the LOGO in my Website and in promotional flyers.

What are your expectations of the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas, should you receive our endorsement? Answer:

I would expect the Stonewall Democrats help with LGBTQ Voter turn out in anyway possible. As a Candidate, we need a lot of help with Voters turning out in Distrct 4. For example: Setting up meet ups with The LGBTQ in District 4 is a big help.

I, johnny Aguinaga, am seeking an endorsement from the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas for the 2021 Dallas City Council elections.

Signed Johnny Aguinaga
Date 02/25/2021



Councilmember Carolyn King Arnold

Your background and the LGBTQ community

Please share any experience that illustrates your understanding of and interest in the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in your District.

As an organization affiliated with the Texas Democratic Party, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will only endorse candidates who affirm an affiliation with the platform and policies of the Texas Democratic Party. Do you make such an affirmation? What is your previous voting history?

I am a staunch and consistent in voting for the Democratic ticket. I have a voting history that began when I turned 18.

Creating an inclusive community

As a member of the Dallas City Council, how would you work to ensure that the City of Dallas - as an employer and as a representative of its residents - actively includes those who identify as LGBTQ+?

The City of Dallas is required by law to include postings and announcements regarding hiring without prejudice against any group - regardless of race, creed, color or sexual preference or identification. i will always make sure to investigate any claims which speaks to discrimination against any individual seeking to be interviewed for a position with the City of Dallas.

What would you do to ensure that qualified LGBTQ+ candidates are encouraged to seek employment on your staff and as staff of the City of Dallas? How would you work to include the LGBTQ+ community in your appointments to boards and commissions?

The publication of job openings are advertised through the City of Dallas Human Services. The City of Dallas has an inclusive and diverse hiring policy, which includes the LGBTQ community. Boards and Commission applicants are submitted to the City Secretary's office. However; one of the avenues of inclusion and promoting interest is through District 4 posting and word of mouth through other colleagues and other community members. My Boards and Commission appointments have included members who are advocates or have identified as LGBTQ+.

Do you support a ban on LGBTQ+ employment discrimination by the State of Texas? How would you work to convince lawmakers in Austin to support such a ban on behalf of your constituents?

The City of Dallas is represented by an Ad Hoc Legislative committee to address the Council/Councilmembers interest as it relates to legislation and this is one route to take. The Constituent prohibits any entity from discriminating against any person regardless of race, creed, color or sexual identification/preference.

The transgender, gender non-binary, and intersex communities often face specific healthcare needs not included in employer-sponsored healthcare coverage. How will you work to make sure that the needs of LGBTQ+ employees are met in your city?

I will continue to work with the LGBTQ+ to identify the challenges or potential challenges which violate the policy and work to ensure those policies are amended or removed.



Current Events

The Texas State Legislature continues to debate and adopt laws which restrict local control on many issues, including protections for the LGBTQ+ community. How would you see your city respond to these changes?

The major avenue for addressing the politics of local control is to continue to (1) lobby legislators (personally and through the ad hoc committee to push bills and to build coalitions with the legislators to get the votes needed to protect "local control", (2) to help build voter registration drives and support candidates to run for office who support these common goals of protecting the "local interests" and wishes of the local constituents.

What are a few bills you are currently watching in Texas' 87th Legislative Session? How would these proposed laws affect the constituents of your district, especially the LGBTQ+ community?

Voter suppression laws are of interest to me. This negatively suppresses the voice of all groups and violates the intent of the Constitution

In your opinion, what needs to happen in the upcoming redistricting cycle? The upcoming redistricting cycle needs to address the issues of geographical voter and census data equity. In addition, it must be transparent, data-driven and limited in scope as it relates to intentional and targeted gerrymandering.

Homelessness has and continues to have a significant impact on the LGBTQ+ community and our neighbors across North Texas. How would you rate your city's current response to homelessness? How would you alter or expand these efforts? The voters approved approximately \$22 million dollars to support the issue of homelessness. I will continue to support programs submitted by staff and fellow colleagues to provide homelessness solutions and opportunities for wrap around services to promote sustainability and recovery. I will also seek support of staff and colleagues to craft programs that will facilitate programs as needed in District 4.

What do you think needs to be done to ensure the demand for Housing Affordability for LGBTQ+ Seniors are met?

I think it important that an increased dialogue and representation of advocates on boards, commission and council will be great avenues for the change and inclusion to materialize. We also need to hear from constituents via open microphone, written and meetings to discuss issues and proposed resolutions.

Income inequality continues to grow and impact life in North Texas. How would you rate your city's current response to the needs of low- and middle-income residents, particularly wage growth and affordable housing? How would you alter or expand these efforts?

We continue to fight as a council to advocate for income equity with at least a goal of \$15.00 an hour. We can and will continue to push for funding of programming to ensure equity in income and housing opportunities are included in policy.

How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media?

I will post on my Social Media site and materials.

What are your expectations of the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas, should you receive our endorsement?

I would expect the Stonewall Democrats to provide resources that are available such as block walking, social media, voter notification through the database and of course individual or organizational donations if available.



Carolyn King Arnold

I, _____, am seeking an endorsement from the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas for the 2021 Dallas City Council elections.

Signed CKArnold Date Marc 16, 2021