



**Stonewall
Questionnaire
E-Booklet**

March 13, 2021



Dallas City Council District 7

Calvin D. 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 an understanding of the Gay and Lesbian Community through meeting with Kirk of Abounding Prosperity Incorporated. I have known Kirk now for 20 years and through his work with HIV outreach and LGBTQ ISSUES that he works with on a daily basis helped me understand the challenges. I also have worked with LGBTQ that were employed at the Dallas County District Attorney's Office. JAYLA AND CRAIG. I also have a number of friends that identify LGBTQ. One of my closest friends is Bill Smith. He is like a brother to me. He educated me on all the things that he has went through in his life. As well as the future challenges that are in the horizon. I'm all about inclusion and judging people on how they treat me and others. I also had the endorsement of DGLA in the last election.

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 Democrat. Lifelong Democrat. I have voted so in the last 10 elections that I have participated in.

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+? As a member of the council. I would make sure that LGBTQ citizens would feel welcome and comfortable applying for jobs, programs and openly identifying without fear of threat or retribution. As a lawyer I would push policies that are inclusive. As an employer I would push for anti discrimination ordinances and policies that benefitted the LGBTQ community.

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 would encourage a diverse staff of races, genders as well as sexual orientation. I would encourage those to apply and I would seek their input in my office and use them as outreach to the LGBTQ community. I would seek candidates with interests in certain boards and commissions that were important to the LGBTQ community.

As an Attorney I would be against any discrimination. Because of the current climate I would openly advocate against discrimination at the city, state and National levels. I would support laws and ordinances that prohibited discrimination. I feel like that we are losing out on great talents by discrimination against the LGBTQ community. I was the former attorney for the largest TEACHERS UNION IN THE STATE OF TEXAS ALLIANCE AFT-DALLAS. I protected workers right in that position. I would do the same in the LGBTQ community.



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? I support a ban on LGBTQ discrimination at the local, state and National levels. I would work with my friend State Rep. 100 Jasmine Crockett to assist in making sure that legislation is introduced in that area. The benefit of having a lawyer as a representative in this area is priceless.

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 would strongly encourage employer by offering incentives to include additional transgender healthcare options and coverage.

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 would want the city to respond using our constitutional rights to govern our own jurisdictions by supporting lawsuits and filing lawsuits to prevent the state from seizing local control. I would work with our state rep to do so. As a lawyer I have an advantage in this area.

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? I would work with State Rep 100 Jasmine Crockett to get the inside on Bills affecting the rights of LGBTQ citizens and try to collectively legally work with her to prevent the passing of this negative legislation.

In your opinion, what needs to happen in the upcoming redistricting cycle? In redistricting, we need to be fair to everyone race and gender in terms of placing areas where they are supposed to be and creating districts that allow for a more diverse makeup.

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? Homelessness is serious in my district. I would give Dallas a 4 on a 10 point scale. I think they can provide more resources. I spent some time feeding the homeless in South Dallas. I think we can provide more funding and use the funding we have more efficiently so that we maximize our resources and do a better job of providing notice to the homeless of what services are available to them. Also I would try to expand efforts my trying to link service providers and people together more efficiently. During the freeze for example I fed them lunch while my friend Tabitha Wheeler came by 6 hours later and fed them dinner. We fed at the same place but different times because we coordinated.

What do you think needs to be done to ensure the demand for Housing Affordability for LGBTQ+ Seniors are met? We need to provide additional funding for our LGBTQ Seniors and maximize the funding we have. Try to find out the kind of housing that's suitable, efficient and affordable.

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 need to pay our workers more. We have to train them better and attract companies that can use their skills. We need to assess what companies are looking for provide our workers the training and encourage employers to pay workers better through tax breaks Etc. We need to increase wages. People need to live off what they make. Income equality is important. #1 threat.



How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media? Yes I would showcase the endorsement. I'm inclusive. The only way this community can prosper is if we come together. We must accept all of our citizens and not judge them. Judge them by their work. I would include it in media. Print, Social Media and in person.

What are your expectations of the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas, should you receive our endorsement? I would like them to phone bank with the endorsement as well as purchase signs and block walk in the community.

I, Calvin D. Johnson, am seeking the endorsement of the Stonewall Democrats for DALLAS CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 7. Signed February 26, 2021. Thank you!



Councilmember Adam Bazaldua

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've been a big supporter and work very closely with Abounding Prosperities, whose target outreach population is predominantly of the Trans community and persons with HIV/AIDS. Through my relationship built with AP, I worked with MPT Medrano to bring transitional and permanent supportive housing specific LGBTQ homeless youth with wrap around services including workforce training. There is a vulnerability that exists and is not talked about near enough within our homeless residents, specific to the homeless LGBTQ community. I believe providing specific resources for this population is needed and I'm proud to not only welcome it in District 7, but also will be contributing seven-figures of bond-dollars to see the project to fruition.

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, dem!

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 can confidently say that I am the biggest ally to the LGBTQ community on our current council, which is a historic council - with 3 openly gay men serving alongside me. I believe in looking through all policies with equity as the priority, and will always be a fighter for the LGBTQ community for equal rights and to fight against discriminatory practices. I believe that and all ally's have a very important role.

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? In my first term, I was proud to have several LGTBQ+ community members serving on boards or commissions. One highlight in the references appointments is my appointment to the esteemed park board, where we currently have an openly gay male, serving and representing district 7, Daniel Wood.

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 do support a ban. With action that was just taken by the House of Representatives, passing the Equality Act, and anticipated Democratic majority Senate, we will have federal protections that will preempt the State of Texas from being able to support such discriminatory practices. I will use my bully pulpit to raise awareness and apply pressure from the local level on our state legislatures and hold them accountable for any attempt in protecting business owner rights over



LGBTQ+ civil rights.

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 believe this is where relationships with organizations such as Stonewall, Abounding Prosperities and DGLA are so critical because in order to affectively govern for marginalized populations it's important to make sure that there is always a seat at the table for the direct perspective of the community. My job is to represent a collective voice of the people, which requires collaboration with stakeholders, I cannot effectively advocate for specific needs of the LGBTQ+ community without working with the community to come to those conclusions. I am committed to doing that.

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 will always push back on any attempt to infringe on our local control, and I will always fight and advocate for human rights and civil rights no matter what the case.

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? There are so many things that impact the LGBTQ community in unique ways. Every issue is an LGBT issue and I have great relationships with the legislators representing D7 in Austin, including Rep. Crockett, who is a member of the LGBTQ Caucus. I'm following and supporting HB 730, by Rep. Jessica Gonzalez that would no longer allow adoption agencies to discriminate against LGBTQ applicants and place children in the best loving homes, and give those kids a better shot at finding their forever family. I also support the House Joint Resolution 58 that would go a long way to end the stigma around being LGBTQ, and repeal outdated homophobia that has been codified into our statutes. There are a lot of great bills being filed, and almost twice as many hateful and out-of-touch bills. I'm calling all of my legislators, and everyone I know at the Capitol, to oppose HB1458 by Valoree Swanson. This bill bullies and traumatizes transgender youth. It would stop trans girls from being able to play on their schools' athletic teams.

In your opinion, what needs to happen in the upcoming redistricting cycle? In regards to my district, the most important part would be to not allow for South Dallas to be broken up into multiple districts, which historically is a play for displacement. I am a huge supporter of our 14-1 government, so that the working class districts are able to have working class representation and I want to make sure in whatever changes are made we protect the most vulnerable from falling victim to a cycle we have seen over and over in this city. I have appointed the Honorable Diane Ragsdale to represent District 7 on the redistricting commission, and believe no one knows our district more or will fight for the right protections.

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? As mentioned above I do not believe we are doing enough, and is why I'm proud to champion specific resources to the LGBTQ+ homeless population.



What do you think needs to be done to ensure the demand for Housing Affordability for LGBTQ+ Seniors are met? I believe there is a need for affordable housing for seniors across our entire city and I believe the most affective and aggressive way to assist is the expansion of the homestead exemption which will provide protection to many seniors on fixed incomes who are at risk of being displaced by rising taxes.

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? Again I do not think our city is doing enough for working class or low income residents of Dallas. We still very much are a tale of two cities in the City of Dallas. As the representative of the lowest socio-economic district, by household income average, it is a constant battle to address equity and provide perspective to make sure that affordable housing is something that is offered all over our city. In regards to wages, I helped lead the charge and set the bar with bringing all part-time employees in the City of Dallas to a \$15/hr minimum wage.

How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media? Loud & proud, baby!

What are your expectations of the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas, should you receive our endorsement? With a crowded race, I need to pound the pavement with as much voter outreach as possible. One beautiful things about all democratic organizations is that we know how to knock on doors. I hope to receive support through volunteer manpower and boots on the ground for our campaign.

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

Signed Adam Bazaldua XX Date 2/24/2021



Dallas City Council District 1

Giovanni “Gio” Valderas

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.

Growing up in the predominantly Latinx community of Oak Cliff, I was witness to the daily struggles of my POC LGBTQ+ friends and their families. I witnessed firsthand how hard it was for my POC LGBTQ+ friends to hide their sexual orientation from their traditional cis families. I found myself picking up friends from their partners' homes and driving them back to their parents' homes in effort to avoid any suspicion. I still remember vividly, picking up one of my closest friends from his home because his father had kicked him out of his house after learning he was gay. That day would be the last time I would see him, he decided to buy a Greyhound ticket and head to Los Angeles. He was 18. I often think about that moment and how much different things would have turned out if there were resources for us to turn to. As a candidate, myself and other candidates owe it to our LGBTQ+ friends not only to be allies but to be comrades in their struggle for equality.

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 have always been a Democrat and voted as such.

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+? First, I would seek out guidance from LGBTQ+ organizations and stakeholders in regard to policy and other issues. Second, with the help of LGBTQ+ groups, I would establish criteria we could use to determine who should be awarded city contracts. Third, I look to include LGBTQ+ individuals on boards and commissions, especially our POC LGBTQ+.

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? Often our POC LGBTQ+ are the ones most discriminated against by our society, so I would first look to work with nonprofits and other organizations to establish partnerships and pipelines for our my office to utilize as I look to bring LGBTQ+ personnel on board. To ensure we have a qualified and diverse list of candidates to choose from, I would ask for a list of recommendations from LGBTQ+ groups such as Stonewall.

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? No, I do not support a ban. I would lobby lawmakers personally. I would also bring LGBTQ+ advocates with me to meet with lawmakers. As an

artist, I would also look to creatively engage and bring awareness to the discriminatory practices of our lawmakers by walking in lock step with our LGBTQ+ family and protesting their actions. Allies need to not just support their LGBTQ+ friends in words but also in deeds. So count me in.

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 would ensure this by continuing to push city staff and other councilmembers to craft policy that ensures everyone has access to quality and affordable health insurance. I will also challenge discriminatory practices in the courts, sending a strong message to everyone that we challenge anyone who stands in the way of progress.

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? We must build relationships with our state legislators who agree with us and work with them to lobby others. We must also create laws and ordinances that challenge discriminatory practices and be ready and willing to take them to court.

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? As of February 25th, the US House of Representatives passed the Equality Act ensuring equal protections for LGBTQ+, long overdue rights afforded to most of our citizens. State Rep. Jessica Gonzales has stated she will be filing a comprehensive non-discrimination bill in the Texas House ensuring our LGBTQ+ community is protected in Texas as well. We must do everything in our capacity to lobby and advocate our state legislature to pass this law.

In your opinion, what needs to happen in the upcoming redistricting cycle? First, we need to appoint individuals who are reflective of the communities that will be redistricted. Second, we must ensure that everyone will be equally engaged and accounted for when redistricting happens. Currently, in my district there is no equitable representation when it comes to redistricting.

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 score our city an "F". Affordable housing and homelessness go in hand in hand, so we must protect our most vulnerable residents, who are often living paycheck to paycheck and are one crisis away from homelessness, by creating anti-displacement ordinances. In addition, I would work with my colleagues to expand services for LGBTQ+ youth often this population is the most vulnerable for experiencing homelessness. Some steps the City Council can take are: 1) We require developers that displace families to pay for moving costs 2) We give our renting families at least 60 days instead of 30 to move. 3) We give renters an opportunity to collectively purchase their units before the landlord sells the property. 4) We further develop protective zoning creating new policies like a Longtime Homeownership program, so when their property values more than triple because of new development, their property rates are locked in, keeping more residents in their homes. 5) We build more affordable homes rather than apartments. 6) We enact inclusionary zoning through overlays and TIFF districts. 6) We take homelessness on



as a priority by investing more funding for social services and low income housing initiatives.

What do you think needs to be done to ensure the demand for Housing Affordability for LGBTQ+ Seniors are met? First, I will support funding to expand a public visibility, understanding, and respect campaign for our LGBTQ+ community through meaningful planned public education initiatives. Second, I will push for all city departments and public campaigns are culturally inclusive and conscious in regard to both transgender and nonconforming communities as well as LGBTQ+ Seniors. Third, my administration will work with organizations like Stonewall to craft policy that ensures our LGBTQ+ seniors concerns and needs are properly being incorporated into City policy and programs. Fourth, ensure that our LGBTQ+ community has representation in a broader range of urban studies and planning allowing for more successful and inclusive outcomes when it comes to integration of urban design and planning of future communities. Other major US cities like Seattle do this, we should to.

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 would grade our city as an "F". As we know, the City's wealth gap is huge between the haves and have not's and that most people who are living at or below poverty happen to be people of color, in fact, 83% of poor people in Dallas are black and brown. We need to invest in work programs so that our future work force has the skills to make a good living. So, let's Invest in workforce skill set change programs, by partnering up with fortune 500 companies to incorporate learning labs in our high schools/rec centers in our most underserved communities to teach new skill sets and with guaranteed job opportunities. Currently, someone who works minimum wage has to work 82 hours a week to afford a one-bedroom house in Dallas. So, let's advocate for increasing the minimum wage and only work with contractors, companies and vendors whose staff are diverse and pays living wages. Right now, the city subcontracts out labor to absolve themselves of the hardships of our working poor, i.e. garbage pick-up. This needs to stop. Lastly, let's Invest in policies that encourage higher savings rates by creating "opportunity accounts" for our underserved communities to provide better economic security for struggling families. By partnering with financial institutions to create public matches for interest bearing accounts along with financial literacy programs so that our communities of color can build wealth to eventually buy a home, create a business, or be used toward higher education.

How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media? I would be proud and grateful to have you all's endorsement and would publicize it in all campaign materials. In short, in these trying times...we don't need ally, we need an accomplice. Someone who will go arm in arm down together. We need a fighter. I am that person.

What are your expectations of the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas, should you receive our endorsement? Honestly, our grassroots campaign will need help primarily in monetary donations, block walking and phone banking. Any support from our LGBTQ+ community would be greatly appreciated in this fight for equality and equity.

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

Signed _____ Date 02.25.21



Councilmember Chad West

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. **My district, North Oak Cliff, is an incredibly friendly neighborhood for LGBTQ+ individuals like myself. District 1 is jam packed with LGBTQ+ and allies who have lived here for decades, and our vibrant small business community thrives on serving our community members.**

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 have a long history of supporting and voting for democrat causes and candidates.**

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 has an ordinance in place to protect LGBTQ+ already.**

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? **We try to reach out to organizations when a position becomes available and let them know that we are hiring.**

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 would advocate and reach out to state leadership to help keep our LGBTQ+ community safe.**

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 work with the city of Dallas taskforce and follow their recommendations on this matter.**

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? **Dallas is looked at a problematic, at the state level, because we tend to be vocal on matters that affect our area. We hold firm in our efforts to protect the LGBTQ+ community and will continue in that effort despite the state.**

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? **The medical care bans and**



criminalization of affirming parents are both very troubling bills that are in the ledge now. The city of Dallas already has inclusive healthcare, and I do not see that changing. Again, I would work with the City of Dallas LGBTQ+ task force and follow their recommendations.

In your opinion, what needs to happen in the upcoming redistricting cycle? **We need fair districts. I will support the creation of fair and equitable districts.**

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? **Homelessness in the LGBTQ community brings challenges that others might not see. We need inclusive programs and resources that protect our LGBTQ+ homeless community. I think having the City of Dallas Taskforce look into this issue to make more recommendations for solutions would be beneficial.**

What do you think needs to be done to ensure the demand for Housing Affordability for LGBTQ+ Seniors are met? **Targeting housing pursuant to the low-income housing tax credit program specifically for LGBT seniors. Resource Center Dallas just applied for a resolution of support from counsel for tax credits for such a project, and I lead advocacy efforts to deny the resolution for a competing senior housing project in order for the Resource Center's project to have a better chance at acquiring the tax credits at the state level.**

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 always room for improvement. Investing in the creation of living wage jobs and economic development in areas that have been relined or disinvested would create more opportunity and help close the wage gaps.**

How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media? **We plan to have logo stickers printed for some of our endorsements. We will also tag and share on all socials to spotlight the endorsement as well as adding it to the website.**

What are your expectations of the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas, should you receive our endorsement? **The endorsement alone is an honor. We always have simple needs like volunteers, monetary donations, or simple social media shares.**

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

Signed Chad West Date 02/26/2021



Dallas City Council District 13

Gay Willis

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. Most of my interest in the needs of the LGBTQ+ community has been in the district in which I work versus the one in which I reside. I have been President & CEO of the Turtle Creek Conservancy, formerly the Lee Park Conservancy, for 8 % years. As Conservancy President, I've worked to include representation from the LGBTQ+ community on our Board of Directors. There is also representation among my campaign supporters. In 1992, a tree and plaque honoring Alan Ross was placed in the park-over time the tree died and plaque became askew on it's base, so I worked with the Dallas Tavern Guild (Michael Doughman) on relocating the plaque and planting a new tree. In 2017 I reached out to Michael to be sure that the 25th anniversary of the Alan Ross Memorial would not be missed, and we planned a respectful recognition ceremony commemorating it. Before Michael died, Pridefest had moved on to Reverchon and then Fair Park, but we discussed the significance of Lee Park to the LGBTQ+ community and the need to educate the younger generation of the history and struggles of so many. I have offered to host a reflective event at the Ross Memorial to counterbalance the festive Pridefest and am still willing to do so.

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? There are many common sense aspects of the platform that I could support, but there are areas that I would need more information on before making a decision. I have voted in both primaries. The City Council is a nonpartisan race and it's important to me to be representative of ALL constituents in the district regardless of party affiliation.

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 Dallas City Council approved an amendment adding language to the City Charter that prohibits discrimination against City employees based on sexual orientation, as well as gender identity and expression. Dallas voters passed the measure in November's election. I strongly supported that amendment and as a council member will stand for the rights of those in the LGBTQ+ community.

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 have demonstrated inclusion of those identifying as LGBTQ+ on the Board of the nonprofit where I am President & CEO. During my tenure we went from zero up to five during one term. As council



member I will actively reach out to the LGBTQ+ community to publicize opportunities to serve on my staff as well as boards and commissions. Since the Council approved the amendment adding language to the City Charter that prohibits discrimination against City employees based on sexual orientation, as well as gender identity and expression, I expect that it is included on any City job posting.

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 Supreme Court decided last summer that the Title VII provision of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 included LGBT workers with regard to discrimination, but we must make sure it is the law of the land here in Texas. I pledge to work with our District 13 and area state representatives and senators that it is not only the law, but the right thing to do.

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? Just as the differing needs of men and women are addressed in healthcare coverage, I would expect the City of Dallas to evaluate the specific healthcare needs of these communities fairly and equitably. I would like to learn about these specific needs, but in general I believe all workers deserve effective healthcare coverage.

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 am not supportive of government overreach into issues that should be decided by cities.

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? One of the bills that would be the most transformative is SB 118, filed by my friend Sen. Nathan Johnson. It would expand Medicaid to over 1,000,000 Texans with \$2.5 billion coming to Texas from the federal government. It is a net positive for Texas and would affect impoverished citizens, including LGBTQ+. I am also watching HB282 and SJR28 around redistricting, and HB1731 on electric grid reliability. I also watch those around child abuse and neglect as well as trauma-informed education.

In your opinion, what needs to happen in the upcoming redistricting cycle? In the partisan redrawing of lines it already appears from what I have read to be a partisan mess. Our state is booming and demographics are changing. We must demand fairness and transparency. In the last redistricting ten years ago the maps were highly gerrymandered and did not reflect the electorate. Because of changing demographics that may be harder to do this time around. Citizens need to let their voices be heard, especially if we see maps that don't represent us.

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 momentum of the work being done by the City and nonprofit agencies has been dramatically affected by the pandemic. Councilmember Mendelson's initiatives to creatively and expeditiously create housing solutions for the homeless are a solution to be gauged for potential scale. Both as a homeowner in North Dallas who sees panhandlers every day on the way to work, and as President of the Turtle Creek Conservancy dealing with the homeless in our park, this is an issue for all of society to solve. Until our community together tackles alcohol and drug abuse help, mental health



issues, the immense need for SRO and halfway houses, we will not solve this problem.

What do you think needs to be done to ensure the demand for Housing Affordability for LGBTQ+ Seniors are met? Housing affordability is a pressing issue in our city and exploring the use of In-Lieu Fees to build a housing trust fund is something I'm in favor of. I also applaud the Resource Center for initiating privately funded senior LGBTQ+-friendly housing as a model for others to follow. If HB2045 passes, it will create a task force to evaluate senior housing needs that could spur further growth of this model.

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? While making some recent progress, Dallas has been pacing well-behind the identified need of 20,000 housing units. There is a requirement of City of Dallas contractors to pay a living wage, which is one way that Dallas can lead on the issue. Dallas ISD now has over 100 choice school options to help educate our future citizenry and workforce toward a gratifying and productive path for themselves and their families, some of which allow students to graduate high school with an Associate Degree, giving an immediate list to potential income. My son is a DISD senior in a P-Tech Early College program at Conrad High School.

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 publicize your endorsement on web, social media and campaign materials.

What are your expectations of the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas, should you receive our endorsement? Assistance in making a donation to the campaign and encouraging your supporter base to do the same, assisting with Get Out the Vote efforts, and encouraging Stonewall Democrats who live in District 13 to vote for me would be welcomed and encouraged!

Cau Donnell Willis

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

signed Gysonnel melin

Date 2.26.2021



Dallas City Council District 11

Hosanna Yemiru

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.

In late 2017, Donald Trump made moves to end DACA protections. I remember working at a local grocery store at the time and a coworker of mine received a notice from our employer that due to their DACA permissions expiring and their inability to renew, they would be terminating my coworker's employment. That same week, their family kicked them out of their home because they found out that they were non-binary.

They didn't have access to a car, a job, a family, or information as to where to get help. My roommate and I took them in, and they lived with us for the next two years, trying to earn a living anywhere that they could. Eventually, I was able to save up enough money to help them renew their DACA so that they could find work, but the damage was done. It would take years to get to a point of having stable housing, employment and deal with the emotional and mental distress caused by the discrimination they faced.

The fact of the matter is that folks who live at the intersection of many identities are at the most risk for a myriad of issues: homelessness, poverty, violence, and food insecurity. When we legislate to protect our black trans women, we automatically make it safer for our communities at large. When we legislate to protect LGBTQ+ homeless youth, we automatically make it safer for all young people facing housing insecurity. It is more important now more than ever to assert that we can only be free when all of us have the resources and protections to live, work, and raise our families with dignity.

I believe that it is imperative that we assert as a city, a state, and a country that discrimination against LGBTQ+ persons is unacceptable. The ability to live as we are and to be accepted for who we are is paramount to survival. No one should have to fear that they would face legal, personal, or workplace discrimination due to who they love, and it is incumbent on all of us to ensure that we are protecting those who are at most risk.

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 democratic organizer and have worked to elect good Democratic leadership in DFW. I have voted for Democrats in every election since I became a United States citizen.

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 believe this work starts by being a strong advocate for anti-discrimination laws that protect queer Dallasites from violence and discrimination. However, I know that policy alone will not be enough to solve the issues the LGBTQ+ community faces — we need to take affirmative steps towards inclusivity. That means electing and hiring LGBTQ+ people at every opportunity and creating/incentivizing apprenticeship programs aimed specifically at LGBTQ+ youth. I would also be in constant communication with local advocacy groups such as Stonewall Democrats in order to ensure that City Hall is always a partner and never an adversary.

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 commit to ensuring that my staff and workplace are welcoming spaces, with employed staff reflecting the diversity that exists in our city and district. I believe that building the bench for the next generation of leaders and staffers is important, which is why even my campaign staff and fellows are as diverse as our city with multiple LGBTQ+ staff and fellows. I commit to ensuring that I consider diversity when it comes time to select appointments to boards and commissions, and when considering policy and legislation. It's important that we are able to see ourselves in our city leadership, and I hope to be a strong ally for the LGBTQ+ Dallasites that live both within my district and the city at large.

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 have made a career out of convincing people with fundamentally different values than me to support progressive candidates and ideas, and I would use these skills when advocating for this ban to lawmakers in Austin. I see this as a potential area for bipartisanship, but only if there are strong advocates like me in positions of power at all levels of government.

I also believe that my campaign is building a blueprint for how progressive organizing can win in districts that often have been left out of the conversation as being “too hard” or “too conservative” for progressive candidates. The truth is, Dallas is trending more progressive as the years go by, and it is important that we assert our political power on all levels of government so that we can elect strong advocates who will fight for equal rights across the board. North Dallas used to be the seat of Pete Sessions and Linda Koop -- now we have Colin Allred and Ana Maria Ramos. Soon, I believe that we can leverage our electoral power to fight for good policies both here in Dallas, and in the State House.

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 support broad, robust anti-discrimination legislation that includes healthcare protections for queer individuals. That starts by guaranteeing comprehensive healthcare for all city employees and doing everything possible to incentivize/mandate that employers do the same. This includes refusing to do business or provide tax subsidies to companies that do not meet non-discrimination guidelines. I also believe that it's important to let those who are most



affected take the lead on policy, so I look forward to working with groups like Stonewall, LGBTQ+ members of the Council, and local advocates to support and craft policy that can bring true protection to Dallasites everywhere.

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'm a firm believer in bringing the fight to the table and compromising only when necessary -- we should be fighting for what is right and meet the moment before giving in without a fight. That being said, I am a strong proponent of local control and believe that our cities need to be leading the fight on anti-discrimination legislation, especially against our Republican-held state house. I don't think we should acquiesce to the state without first making a serious effort to fight for Dallasites.

I am also looking forward to working with Democratic colleagues in the State House to bring good policy to the forefront, a role that really requires an understanding of organizing strategy. I will be a consistent advocate for anti-discrimination legislation and will work closely with state and federal leaders to find solutions to our most pressing issues.

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

The city of Dallas needs to prioritize equity, and that means empowering disenfranchised communities whenever possible. The current make-up of our council does not reflect the reality of our city. We are trending quickly to a majority minority city, and our Council should reflect that.

Take District 11 for instance: this is a majority-minority district in which Latinx and Black voters make up the largest voting block. Yet, we have only ever had older, white, and conservative council members. Of course, part of the problem is low turnout in municipal elections. The larger problem is that we are not putting in the effort necessary to bring representation to our districts; we are not running candidates that can speak to that larger electorate and organize our districts in a way that brings out regular Democratic voters.

I believe that representation is even more important on the local level as our City Council is regularly making decisions that affect our day to day lives. It is my stance then that when redistricting comes around, we need to draw council districts that will give electoral power to disenfranchised communities, even if that means that current Council members (including myself) need to be drawn out of their seats to create a more equitable city.

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 believe that our city's response to homelessness, particularly for those in the LGBTQ+ community, has been wholly inadequate. We cannot criminalize our way out of homelessness. We cannot arrest our way out of homelessness. As such, it is imperative that the city does not continue sweeping homeless communities and tent cities, impose fines on unhoused people or panhandlers, or otherwise criminalize our unhoused neighbors. We should limit police interactions with unhoused populations, and instead approach homelessness with housing first, and holistic wrap around services



that will help folks transition into good paying jobs and stable housing.

We know that poverty is a policy decision. As such, I believe that the city should provide stable permanent supportive housing for folks experiencing chronic homelessness, create transitional housing with job placement programs, mental health resources, and addiction services that are explicitly non-exclusionary. We should also prioritize providing housing for unhoused LGBTQ+ Dallasites -- particularly LGBTQ+ youth and trans Dallasites -- that require safe housing and resources and are at a higher risk of homelessness in our city.

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

Property tax pushout is already one of the biggest challenges facing our city and rising unaffordability across Dallas is always going to hit disenfranchised communities the most, including our LGBTQ+ population. As such, I think it is important to expand affordable housing options across every council district, provide transition and supportive housing and services, and create a development plan that explicitly addresses gentrification and displacement.

We need to work on reducing property taxes in the long run by working with our State representatives to ensure that commercial properties are paying their fair share of taxes and freezing property taxes in areas that are rapidly gentrifying or are around TIF zones. We need to invest heavily into underserved communities in South and West Dallas while working to keep as many Dallasites in those areas in their neighborhoods. We need to encourage mindful development and reject the Dallas way of luxury development at the expense of working Dallasites.

The solutions to our problems are difficult and require hard work but they exist. It is the job of our Council to ensure that all families in our city have the opportunity to live with dignity, and I am looking forward to having the opportunity to be a part of that solution for our families and communities in need.

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 think the city has tremendous room for growth when it comes to addressing the needs of low- and middle-income residents. I fundamentally believe that housing is a human right and should be treated as such. There are many avenues that we should be trying to guarantee homes to every Dallasites. We need to build deeply affordable housing that goes beyond means-testing, create permanent housing for folks experiencing chronic homelessness, provide job training and placement programs, pass fair wage ordinances in the city of Dallas, and stop criminalizing homelessness. We also need to eliminate local ordinances that allow for land speculation that drives up demand and prices while artificially stifling supply. We also need to look to change the way we zone our neighborhoods so that we can encourage affordability across our city, thus desegregating the city while providing housing that is close to jobs and opportunities.

These failures stem not only from a lack of urgency on council, but also from a lack of diversity in lived experience. After my family immigrated to Dallas from Ethiopia, we worked hard to stay on our feet but even 4-6 paychecks between us could barely keep all of the bills paid. I know what it means to be a working Dallasite and to rely on our city to provide necessary resources: my family benefitted from having mixed income housing in District 11, and I relied



heavily on our DART busses to get around, our libraries for access to wifi, and our city services for utility payment assistance. These resources are necessary, not expendable. Our experiences and needs are needed on Council, and it is imperative that we bring the urgency needed to provide solutions that meet the needs of working families.

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

I would share the endorsement on all social media platforms and include it on my website, as well as any relevant campaign literature.

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

Should I receive this endorsement, I would hope that Stonewall Democrats of Dallas would publicize my campaign through earned media and sharing my information on Stonewall platforms. I would also hope to have access to some of Stonewall's volunteer capacity for both virtual and in-person events. Finally, I would hope for Stonewall's financial support, through direct contributions and efforts to spread the word about the work we are doing to bring progressive leadership to our City.

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

Signed Hosanna Yemiru XX Date 02/24/2021



Dallas City Council District 12

Elva Curl

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 am supportive of LGBTQ+ rights and causes. I remember watching the uproar when Judge Tonya Parker refused to do weddings for anyone as long as LGBTQ+ could not legally marry in Texas. It was disturbing the way some of the right-wing media outlets mis-represented her stand on principle - never sharing her reasons for not doing weddings. It was gratifying to see gay marriage finally legalized in Texas. Love is love, period.

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 Democrat, and I have secured TexasVAN access for my campaign after confirming my commitment to the Texas Democratic Party. For full transparency, I do want Stonewall Democrats to know up-front that in some past election cycles I voted in the Republican Primary. I believed for a time, given the context in which I grew up, that such as thing as compassionate conservatism existed, and I have voted “for the person” in some primary elections. I have also voted in Democratic primaries. I have been drawn to the Democratic Party not only because of its values that I share, but also because the Republican Party has become the party of hate, bigotry, division and greed. Ultimately, running for Dallas City Council is a non-partisan campaign. But my values are with the Democratic Party.

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+? While the City Council does not have authority to manage staff who work in City departments, it serves an important function as a figurehead and role model. It is important for all City Council members to be inclusive and welcoming to all staff, to attend LGBTQ+ events, and be publicly vocal in their support of LGBTQ+ individuals. It is also important for the City Council to defend against any challenges to current LGBTQ+ policies, and to consider new policies as appropriate that defend the status of LGBTQ+ equal rights.

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’d make sure that any employment opportunities are announced in LGBTQ+ media, such as the Dallas Voice. Many universities have LGBTQ+ organizations, and posting job openings to these groups would make sense. I would have an open dialogue with LGBTQ+ community organizations, and listen to their recommendations for appointments. I believe it is important for all City boards and commissions to reflect the community they represent.

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 support this ban. As



frustrating as it may sound, it is necessary to continually discuss these issues with people who are not supportive, even if they are not receptive. I would not miss an opportunity to bring up a ban on LGBTQ+ employment discrimination with the legislators who oppose it.

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? The City of Dallas has worked tirelessly to make sure that it is a welcoming city, with all-gender and single occupancy facilities and transgender-inclusive healthcare benefits. I believe that the city is a good role model for other organizations and businesses and if businesses are receiving public funds, they should emulate the city's inclusiveness.

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 Council would undoubtedly oppose laws that rescind protections for the LGBTQ+ community. I would strongly add my voice to stand up against any laws that take away these protections.

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? I'm watching several that will affect the LGBTQ+ community. HB610 targets municipal nondiscrimination ordinances. This bill not only takes away basic human rights of LGBTQ+ residents, it strips the rights of all residents to live in a city that upholds their values. HB 73 is an important piece of legislation that will disallow the gay/trans panic defense during trial. There have been dozens of trans people attacked and murdered in Dallas over the years, and this defense seems to always be brought up. There is never an acceptable excuse for hate crimes. HB493 is also necessary, in my opinion. I think increasing HIV testing will only help reduce the stigma of knowing your status.

In your opinion, what needs to happen in the upcoming redistricting cycle? Unfortunately, Republican legislators will drive the bus on redistricting, and there will be little we can do in the process. Litigation will undoubtedly be necessary and leaders should be prepared to help those fighting for proper representation that does not disenfranchise minorities. It will be a difficult battle but I am ready to join the effort.

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 think the City's response has been very middle-of-the-road. There has been a good start with the hotels for the homeless that the City purchased with the CARES Act, but more needs to be done. I am supportive of DA John Creuzot's effort to de-criminalize homelessness and instead deal with the issue and help people.

What do you think needs to be done to ensure the demand for Housing Affordability for LGBTQ+ Seniors are met? The City in general needs more affordable housing, more options for the homeless, and in some case, more treatment for drug addiction and mental health issues. We have to get away from ignoring the problem, criminalizing the problem, or simply pushing people away from the city.

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 think the City has not done enough to ensure there is enough affordable housing in the City. We need to lobby hard for \$15 minimum wage and living wages for work.



How would you showcase your endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas if received? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media? I would include it on my website, social media accounts, and campaign mailers.

What are your expectations of the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas, should you receive our endorsement? My campaign is against a right-wing Republican incumbent who has shown she cannot work with others on the council to get things done for the district and for Dallas. My district needs stronger leadership and the ability to collaborate with others. Because I am running against an incumbent who will have an easier time raising money, I hope the Stonewall Democrats will donate as much as possible (\$2500 limit for PACs) to my campaign. I also need volunteers to canvass, make phone calls, and help poll greet when the election comes.

Elva Curl

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

Signed_

elemel

Date

2-26-21



Dallas City Council District 8

Subrina Brenham

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.

District 8 has been home to me for over 40 years and I have served as a Democratic precinct chair for many of those years. Coming from a family who have been advocates and activists in the civil rights movement and the labor movement, I understand that discrimination for one is discrimination for all. Throughout my political involvement, I have chosen to only work with leaders who were supportive and advocates for the members of LGBTQ+ community. I have worked with leaders in the LGBTQ+ community and will continue to learn from and listen to them to ensure I can best serve their interests on council. Because of my work and my family history, I understand we must continue to fight for expanded rights for all in marginalized communities.

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 proud lifelong Democrat. My work as a Democratic Precinct Chair, on Democratic campaigns, supporting candidates who share our Democratic values, even in non-partisan races have always been intentional with the goal to expand our party and strengthen our values

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+?

A modern and diverse city like Dallas has no place for hate or bigotry. As council member, I would uphold current LGBTQ+ community protections. I would also take our current LGBT task force a step further and advocate for a Human Rights Commission to advise on policy pertaining to matters of diversity and inclusion.

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?

Diversity in community and working spaces is extremely important to me. I currently have staff members on my campaign who identify with the LGBTQ+ community. I would work with our current LGBTQ+ city liaison to intentionally seek members in the LGBTQ+ community with a desire to serve on 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, and I would work with our local delegation to draft bills that not only ban discrimination for the members of LGBTQ+ community, but also work to eliminate discrimination for those who are further marginalized because of their intersectional identities.

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 support full health coverage for specific healthcare needs and would work to educate and create buy-in from employers.

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 would oppose any law that take away people's civil rights.

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?

I am watching many of the criminal justice reform bills that will affect marginalized communities, especially those members of LGBTQ who are also are people of color

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

Texas needs an independent redistricting commission to prevent continued gerrymandering and further disenfranchising our marginalized communities.

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 are making progress on some aspects of addressing homelessness but failing at others – such as expanding temporary shelters.

Public education and targeted services are required to address LGBTQ+ homelessness, especially for youth, who have often lost all family supports and experience a lack of safety in shelters as well as on the streets.

Improving access to mental health care is an equally important goal. People with mental health challenges too easily become homeless and are far less likely to escape homelessness.



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

We need policies in place that eliminate the discrimination against LGBTQ Seniors.

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?

Dallas is increasingly becoming a city of haves and have nots, with our middle- class being hollowed out by rising housing prices and a lack of family-sustaining jobs.

At the city government level, we need more fairness, transparency and accountability – so that the public can really get under the hood of major initiatives and understand who benefits. A timely example: We need to make sure that neighborhood revitalization isn't just another term for pushing people out of their homes.

We need to help low- and middle-income residents stay in Dallas through innovative neighborhood beautification grants and housing remediation programs.

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 publicize my endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas on our social media channels in addition to our other campaign communication avenues.

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

If honored to receive the stonewall Democrats of Dallas endorsement, I expect a working endorsement. I would like the members of the org to help me win by knocking on doors, making calls, or poll greeting.

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

Signed Subrina Brenham Date 3/1/21