

2025 Municipal Candidate Questionnaire

This questionnaire is for candidates running in Municipal Elections, please complete questionnaire below. Submit a completed electronic copy by Thursday, February 27, 2025, to be considered for endorsement in the 2025 Municipal Elections.

Email *

Bazaldua4Dallas@gmail.com

General Information

Candidate Name *

Adam Bazaldua

1. District/Office Sought *

Dallas City Council District 7

2. Are you a current member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas? *

Yes

No

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

I am a proud Ally to the LGBTQ+ community and have led several efforts at City Hall that promotes and supports the community, including our efforts as the first city in the country to create a pride version of our city's flag and securing an ordinance that flies the flag from our city facilities flag poles during the month of June. I have also introduced resolutions to observe Trans Visibility day where we subsequently had the Dallas skyline lit up in the colors of the trans flag.

4. 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 (please explain any changes in party affiliation)?

Yes, I am a Democrat and have voted Democrat in the previous 5 Primary elections.

5. Please list some of your qualifications and experiences pertinent to the office you are seeking:

I have served the residents of District 7 on the Dallas City Council for the 6 previous terms. I currently serve as the Deputy Mayor Pro Tem of the Council as well as Board Member for the National League of Cities, Chair of the Texas State Chapter of Local Progress, Vice Chair of Hispanic Elected Local Officials, Board Member of Visit Dallas and Member of the Regional Transportation Council.

6. Once you are elected, what are some of your priorities and plans specific to your office's responsibilities?

- Continue work with DPD to combat crime with lighting investments and blight remediation efforts
- Bring innovative housing resources for our unsheltered residents with necessary mental health and addiction resources
- Execute projects where 2024 Bond funding was secured (street improvements, WRH Recreation Center, MLK Jr. Community Center)
- Increase affordable housing stock
- Focus on Economic Development to enhance quality of life for neighborhoods while reducing the burden on our tax payers

Housing

This section addresses housing and homelessness within the LGBTQ+ community.

7. On a scale of 1-10, 1 being the lowest and 10 being the highest, please rate your city's response to housing affordability and briefly explain your rating.

5- Our city continues to struggle with the fight against inequity. We have a proliferation of affordability in areas that concentrates poverty and perpetuates the disparities of our city's socioeconomic make up. We need to be intentional about promoting true mixed-income development and strategic on bringing affordability to parts of our city that does not have affordable options for working class residents to live

8. Please list a specific policy/ordinance you would like to introduce or repeal to address the housing supply issue

I am working diligently to pass state legislation with members of our state delegation that will help combat displacement utilizing TIF funds to help by down increase in property taxes for legacy owners. In addition to that its important to be intentional about all affordable housing or LIHTC proposals that come to council and promote equity with their respective approvals or denials.

9. What's the biggest threat to LGBTQ+ folks with respect to housing security and what are your plans to address housing insecurity within this community specifically?

Housing insecurity poses significant challenges for LGBTQ+ individuals in Dallas, primarily due to discrimination, a higher risk of homelessness, economic disparities, and a lack of safe, supportive housing options. To address these issues, it is essential to engage in community outreach and advocacy by collaborating with local LGBTQ+ organizations to raise awareness about housing discrimination and provide resources for those in need. Educational training programs for landlords and real estate agents can foster inclusivity and fair housing practices, while supportive housing initiatives should aim to create dedicated LGBTQ+-friendly housing that ensures safety and community support. Partnering with service providers will enhance comprehensive support systems for individuals facing housing insecurity. Additionally, research and data collection will help identify specific needs and gaps in services, guiding policy advocacy. Establishing emergency assistance programs can also provide immediate relief for those in crisis, ultimately fostering a more secure and equitable housing landscape for LGBTQ+ individuals in Dallas.

10. What specific ordinances or policies would you suggest or support to address housing inequality and rental pricing, such as a ban on algorithmic rent control?

Implementing more proactive rent control policies, such as limiting annual rent increases to a small percentage tied to inflation or median wage growth, would protect tenants from astronomical rent hikes. Inclusionary zoning laws would require new housing developments to provide a percentage of affordable units in order for mixed incomes to be able to coexist within a community. In addition, the establishment of a comprehensive Renters' Bill of Rights would empower tenants by articulating their rights, strengthening safeguards against unfair evictions and discrimination. Increased spending on affordable housing, promotion of property tax relief programs for low-income individuals, and anti-displacement policies to protect vulnerable communities from gentrification are also crucial. Furthermore, policy promoting interpretable algorithmic practices in rental pricing can safeguard tenants from discriminatory pricing. Lastly, a comprehensive housing strategy that involves a mix of affordable housing development, preservation of existing units, and support for a variety of housing types will serve the diverse needs of Dallas residents, making the housing market more equitable for all.

Public Safety (Includes Fire, 911, School safety, and all safety departments)

This section addresses Public Safety within the LGBTQ+ community

11. On a scale of 1-10, 1 being the lowest and 10 being the highest, please rate your city's delivery of public safety services to the community and briefly explain your rating. *

7- Our city is continuing to see a downward trend of crime and is doing a relatively good job at combatting regarding our response to crime. However we could do better and more about investing in public safety indirectly. Lighting upgrades and blight remediation remain a priority of mine along with diversion programs and alternative responses such as overdose response and Mental Health services like our RIGHT Care program that we have continues to expand.

12. Please list one public safety policy you support and why and one public safety policy you oppose and why. *

I was the lone vote against an ordinance that targets our unsheltered residents as I find it not only discriminatory, but I believe it to be unconstitutional. The ordinance was to allow for law enforcement to arrest individuals who are congregating on medians less than 6 feet wide.

I have supported the creation of our RIGHT care program, the Overdose response team and the creation of our sober center which all promote alternative response that need specific needs while also freeing up law enforcement resources.

I also proudly supported efforts to decriminalize the personal possession of marijuana which has resulted in far less arrests and jailing of brown and black dallasites.

13. Please address how you would work with public safety officials across all appropriate levels of government to ensure LGBTQ+ people feel safe, secure, and respected within your respective jurisdiction. *

To ensure that LGBTQ+ individuals feel safe, secure, and respected within our city, a multi-faceted approach would be taken to work collaboratively with public safety officials across local, state, and federal levels of government. First and foremost, we would establish open channels of communication between LGBTQ+ advocacy groups and law enforcement agencies to foster trust and facilitate dialogue on safety concerns specific to the LGBTQ+ community.

Training programs would be developed for public safety officials, including police and emergency responders, to address bias, cultural competency, and sensitivity regarding LGBTQ+ issues, thereby equipping them to respond effectively and respectfully to incidents involving LGBTQ+ individuals. This education would also cover hate crimes, ensuring that law enforcement can recognize, report, and thoroughly investigate such incidents.

In addition, we would work collaboratively to implement community policing strategies that involve LGBTQ+ representatives in the planning and execution of safety initiatives, which would help ensure that the needs and voices of LGBTQ+ individuals are represented in public safety policy discussions. Regular community meetings and outreach events would be held to gather input from LGBTQ+ community members about their experiences and safety concerns, allowing for real-time feedback and continuous improvement of safety strategies.

14. Have there been any recent incidents involving LGBTQ+ hate or violence in your city, if so how do you plan to address this? If not, what can other cities learn in order to reduce these occurrences? *

One of the most vivid memories I have of violence against a member of the LGBTQ+ community happened a month prior to me taking office was the death of Muhlaysia Booker. While the original crime and ensuing murder did not happen while I was the councilmember, I still worked to ensure justice for her and her family was carried out and worked with DPD to target a reduction of these types of hate crimes.

15. If you are not a member of a historically marginalized group, what is your understanding of the needs of these groups with respect to public safety? *

I am a proud member of the Latino community and understand first hand what it means to be marginalized with regards to public safety within this country, state, and city.

Environmental

This section addresses Environmental protections within marginalized communities.

16. Please list a specific policy/ordinance that you would suggest or support to advance making your city more climate resilient. *

One specific policy that I would suggest to enhance climate resilience in Dallas is the implementation of a Green Building Ordinance. The ordinance would mandate all new construction and large-scale renovations to comply with some sustainability and resilience standards, encouraging energy efficiency by adopting stringent guidelines such as LEED certification.

17. What are your plans to address environmental injustices for marginalized communities within your city? *

I have been a longstanding champion for environmental justice within my community from shutting down batch plants within my district to supporting many other industrial hazards across our city. To increase this we must continue establishing regular forums and workshops where these groups are brought into the discussion of local environmental issues, so that residents can voice concerns and be included in decision-making. Extensive data collection and analysis of air and water quality will be conducted to identify environmental hazards, and form the foundation of policies and interventions. Furthermore, environmental initiative resources should be allocated equitably to support clean air programs, green infrastructure, and park construction in underprivileged communities. Enhanced green space access, community gardens, and green corridors will improve environmental health and community welfare. Funding local initiatives organized by NGOs and grassroots movements will empower residents to address their specific issues. Public education campaigns and education will encourage awareness of environmental rights and the health impacts to enable communities to represent themselves. Climate resilience developed through programmed initiatives and grassroots lobbying for local and state policies that respond to the environmental justice inequalities will also propel these efforts. Through the application of such strategies, it is possible to work towards redress for environmental injustices as well as towards creating healthier, greener spaces within marginalized communities across Dallas.

Communications

This section addresses Communication Methods between elected officials and marginalized communities.

18. How do you plan to work with allies and organizations across all appropriate levels of government to present a cohesive message of unified support for the LGBTQ+ community? *

To effectively advocate for the LGBTQ+ community, I propose building a coalition of local LGBTQ+ advocacy groups, government representatives, and agencies. Through joint meetings and workshops, we would synchronize messaging and strategy, enabling stakeholders to advocate effectively. A common communication campaign highlighting critical issues would amplify our collective voice, and continuous analysis would ensure our strategy remains responsive to community needs. By fostering strong connections and a unified voice, we can drive enduring change and a more just society for the LGBTQ+ community.

19. How do you plan to work with allies and organizations across all appropriate levels of government to present a cohesive message of unified support for the LGBTQ+ community? *

Same question and answer in question 18.

20. Will you commit to being an active partner and supporter of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas? *

Yes

No

Local Governance

This section addresses the attack on Local Governance from the State Legislature.

21. Do you believe the State Legislature has engaged or will engage in government overreach? *
Briefly explain your answer.

The "Death Star bill," the Texas House Bill 2127, hurts local control by inhibiting municipalities' capacity to embrace regulations that are different from state laws, particularly zoning, land use, and environmental standards. While its proponents argue that it streamlines regulatory processes and makes them easier for businesses, others believe it undermines local authority by denying elected officials the ability to craft rules tailored to the unique needs and challenges of their respective constituencies. In its one-size-fits-all fashion, the process fails to factor in regional diversity, threatening constituents' resentment and economic inequalities in development. Furthermore, the bill stifles local action to address pressing environmental issues, lowering community responsiveness to public health crises, affordable housing shortages, and safety. Generally, the Death Star bill is seen as undermining local control, hindering good governance, and exacerbating social, economic, and environmental issues in Texas communities.

22. Please list one specific policy/ordinance that you feel would best advance LGBTQ+ rights on a local level *

I believe there are actions we can take to protect gender affirming care and some of the attacks on trans persons and their families.

23. What is your opinion of local police department cooperating with ICE? *

Thank you so much for including this question. I am adamantly opposed the use of any local law enforcement resources used to enforce federal immigration laws. We must do everything in our power to promote our city as welcoming and inclusive to all residents in our city. What is happening with the current ICE raids are putting unwarranted targets on specific communities and has created fear in our Latino communities. We have to fight against these hateful policies and false narratives that there are any correlations to undocumented residents and crime in our communities.

All Candidates

All candidates will need to answer the following questions.

24. Is there anything in your past or background that has not been covered by the previous questions that might – without careful explanation - cause our organization to reconsider or withdraw our endorsement of you?

No

25. I'm seeking an endorsement from the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas for the 2025 Municipal election. (Please type name) *

Adam Bazaldua

This form was created inside of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas.

