

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 *

douglas.e.huff@gmail.com

General Information

Candidate Name *

Douglas Huff

1. District/Office Sought *

Garland City Council District 3

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.

First, Although I have always considered myself an ally for the LGBTQ+ community, my daughter came out to me not so many years ago. Recognizing how important it was for me to provide her love and support was something I actively worked to do. Additionally, As an attorney, I am a member of the Dallas LGBT Bar Association. As a business owner my firm is a member of the LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce. And as a Democrat, I am a member of Stonewall.

Because of my family, and the organizations I support and am a part of, it is important to me, as it should be to all leaders in government, whether at the city, county, state, or federal level, to understand and keep abreast of the issues and concerns of the LGBTQ+ community.

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)?

I make this affirmation.

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

Specifically to Garland City Council District 3, I feel that I am uniquely qualified to both represent and advocate for my District within Garland, as well as be an advocate and represent Garland as a whole on the county and state level.

Garland, and District 3 are growing. It is important that through this growth there are those who assist in the stewardship and management of that growth.

I am a father, a husband, an attorney, a business owner, a veteran, an ally. I recognize the challenges of my district, such as the Eastern Hills Golf Course development and the infrastructure needs for our roads, alleys, and sidewalks. We need much more transparency within the District and within Garland.

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

Specifically, Infrastructure & Transportation, which has been a major goal of the new bond in Garland, Housing and Neighborhood development, economic and business growth, Parks and Recreation, public safety, and family and youth programs.

The City of Garland has been working hard at a revitalization, and it shows. Unfortunately, District 3 has not seen that same focus. We have lake coastline and yet no significant green spaces. Our roads need repair and economic zones need assistance in the revitalization process.

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. I list as a 5 because I think Garland has been average in this process. There is a wide range of economic and housing spectrums in Garland. The problem is that as we grow, this has not truly been addressed with a plan for the future.

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

The housing supply issue within Garland, I do not believe, has been a focus of the city but it needs to be. Specifically, all land has been developed and now we must look at redevelopment projects. In District 3, we have a golf course that has been closed for a decade. The redevelopment of this property into a neighborhood must have the input of the surrounding neighborhoods and be the best use of the property.

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?

Garland, as a whole, is in the process of a revitalization. I believe that city council should be looking at this redevelopment and focusing on not just high end builds but affordable new housing. Within District 3, we have multiple neighborhoods that run the range of lower cost apartment communities, townhomes and condos, affordable single family homes through established higher cost neighborhoods.

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?

Algorithmic rent control reduces competition and raises rents. It facilitates price fixing. Within the City of Garland, the council needs to research and address developers concerning rent control programs.

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. The City of Garland has come a long way with ensuring police and fire departments are provided the tools and training to support the community. It does have work to do to continue its progress as well as to build a relationship with the community of trust.

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

I support policies that include additional training in de-escalation for our first responders. As a defense attorney, I see many first responders do not have the training or skills to respond effectively to those in need for non-criminal activities.

A policy that I am opposed to is the continued genderification of public restrooms. This only causes alienation.

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.

There needs to be strong training and enforcement of hate crime laws within Garland.

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?

There has not been a recent incident. Other cities, as well as Garland, need to be vigilant in protecting the LGBTQ+ community. In Garland, there is a special division Crimes Against Persons Unit that assists in enforcement against these 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 have over many, many years represented people in criminal charges against them throughout Texas. There is both an innate fear and distrust of police within most marginalized groups while also a larger need for public safety protection. This cuts both ways. Ultimately education and training, as well as building positive relationships within communities are the building blocks for marginalized groups to feel safe within their communities.

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.

The City of Garland manages its own recycling and waste. I would support additional enforcement. It does not seem to enforced consistently.

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

Within Garland, but more specifically within District 3 there is coastline along Lake Ray Hubbard. This coastline has not been managed properly and there are often complaints of trash and sewage on the Garland coastline. A cleanup of this area and reutilization projects to benefit the district, as well as Garland as a whole, would be a specific goal of mine on the city council.

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? *

Transparency and communication are the keys. I will strongly stand for LGBTQ+ rights. As an ally, as a "girl-dad" of someone in the community, it is important to me to stand fast in support of LGBTQ+.

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 as above.

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.

I don't think I can briefly explain this. I believe that the State Legislature consistently engages in government overreach.

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

on a local level

I feel that non-discrimination ordinances and policies best advance LGBTQ+ rights on local city levels.

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

I am strongly against local police departments cooperating with ICE. Local police have other roles within our community. They are to protect and serve the community.

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?

I don't believe so. That being said, I want to be completely transparent and if anyone has an additional question for me, I'll be happy to answer.

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

Douglas Huff

This form was created inside of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas.

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