

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 *

VoteErikWilson@gmail.com

General Information

Candidate Name *

Erik Wilson

1. District/Office Sought *

District 8

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.

As a candidate for Dallas City Council District 8, I am committed to understanding and addressing the needs of the LGBTQ+ community within our district. While I have not yet had the opportunity to engage directly with LGBTQ+ organizations in District 8, I recognize the importance of fostering inclusivity and support for all residents.

The City of Dallas has demonstrated a commitment to LGBTQ+ equality through various initiatives:

Pride in Excellence Awards: The Mayor and City Council Members host the annual Pride in Excellence Awards Reception to celebrate Pride Month and honor individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the LGBTQ+ community.

LGBT Task Force: Established in 1995, the LGBT Task Force has implemented non-discrimination protections against sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression among City of Dallas employees. This initiative reflects the city's dedication to equality and inclusion.

Racial Equity Plan: In 2022, the City Council unanimously passed a Racial Equity Plan, aiming to address inequities experienced by residents based on race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status. This plan underscores the city's commitment to equity, which extends to the LGBTQ+ community.

If elected, I plan to engage with local LGBTQ+ organizations, such as the Cathedral of Hope, to understand better the specific needs of the LGBTQ+ community in District 8. By collaborating with these organizations, I aim to advocate for policies that promote inclusivity, support, and equal rights for all residents.

I am committed to ensuring that the LGBTQ+ community's voices are heard and that their needs are addressed in the policymaking process.

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 have only voted in Democratic primaries since I stated voting.

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

Here's a strong response based on your background and experience:

I bring a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to public service as I seek re-election to the Dallas City Council for District 8. My qualifications include:

- Former Dallas City Council Member – I have firsthand experience navigating city governance, collaborating with stakeholders, and implementing policies that benefit residents.
 - Community Activist & Advocate – I have consistently worked to address issues affecting South Dallas and Oak Cliff, ensuring that residents have equitable access to economic opportunities, quality housing, and public safety.
 - Realtor with 17+ Years of Experience – My extensive real estate background gives me insight into housing policies, development, and the importance of homeownership as a tool for generational wealth.
 - Former High School Teacher (12 Years) – My experience in education has given me a strong understanding of the socio-economic challenges affecting students and families, reinforcing my commitment to policies that support public education and youth development.
 - Small Business Owner – As the founder of Blue Ink Mobile Notary and a content creator for License To Carry, I understand the challenges faced by small business owners and advocate for policies that support entrepreneurship.
 - Board Member of Southern Sector Rising – I work to address environmental justice issues, ensuring that South Dallas communities are not overlooked in city planning and resource allocation.
 - Union Background with Cingular Wireless – My time working in a unionized environment with Cingular Wireless (now AT&T Wireless) has given me insight into workers' rights, fair wages, and labor protections. These qualifications, combined with my deep-rooted connection to the community, make me uniquely positioned to continue serving and advocating for the residents of District 8.
-

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

Upon election to the Dallas City Council representing District 8, I will focus on the following key priorities:

1. Economic Development and Job Creation

- Attract Diverse Industries: Collaborate with the Economic Development Committee to bring various industries to District 8, creating job opportunities and stimulating local economic growth.
- Support Small Businesses: Implement programs that provide financial assistance, training, and resources to local entrepreneurs, fostering a thriving small business environment.

2. Infrastructure Improvement

- Enhance Transportation: Advocate for improved public transit routes and schedules to better connect District 8 residents to employment centers and essential services.
- Upgrade Public Facilities: Prioritize the renovation and maintenance of parks, recreation centers, and libraries to ensure safe and accessible spaces for all community members.

3. Public Safety and Community Well-being

- Strengthen Community Policing: Promote initiatives that build trust between law enforcement and residents, ensuring equitable and effective policing.
- Address Environmental Concerns: Collaborate with environmental organizations to tackle issues like illegal dumping and pollution, ensuring a cleaner and healthier environment for our neighborhoods.

4. Affordable Housing and Homeownership

- Increase Affordable Housing Options: Partner with developers to create housing that meets the needs of low- and moderate-income families, preventing displacement and promoting community stability.
- Promote Homeownership: Offer programs that assist first-time homebuyers with education and financial support, enabling more residents to invest in and remain in our community.

5. Transparency and Community Engagement

- Regular Town Hall Meetings: Host forums to listen to constituents' concerns, provide updates on council activities, and foster open dialogue.
- Accessible Communication Channels: Utilize various platforms to keep residents informed and involved in decision-making processes affecting District 8.

By focusing on these priorities, I aim to enhance the quality of life in District 8 and ensure that our community's voice is heard and respected in all city matters.

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.

I would rate Dallas' response to housing affordability as a 5 out of 10. While the city has initiated several programs to address the issue, significant challenges persist.

Progress Made:

- **Policy Initiatives:** The adoption of the Dallas Housing Policy 2033 aims to reduce racial disparities in housing and promote equitable development.
- **Financial Commitments:** The Dallas Housing Opportunity Fund has raised \$41.5 million to support affordable housing projects, contributing to nearly 500 units to date.

Ongoing Challenges:

- **Affordable Housing Shortage:** As of 2021, Dallas faced a shortage of over 33,000 affordable rental units for low-income families, with projections indicating this gap could nearly triple to 83,500 units by 2030 without intervention.
- **Income-Housing Cost Disparity:** Households in Dallas need to earn over \$127,000 annually to afford a median-priced home without spending more than 30% of their income, yet the region's median income is approximately \$97,908, leaving a significant affordability gap.

While Dallas has made commendable efforts to tackle housing affordability, the existing and projected shortages, coupled with income disparities, indicate that more comprehensive and effective measures are necessary to adequately address the crisis.

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

To effectively address the housing supply issue in Dallas, I propose introducing a policy to reduce minimum lot size requirements for single-family homes. Currently, Dallas mandates that single-family homes occupy lots of at least 5,000 square feet in certain southern neighborhoods, with even larger minimums in northern areas. This regulation limits the number of homes that can be built, thereby constraining housing supply and contributing to higher property costs.

By decreasing the minimum lot size, we can enable the construction of more housing units within the same land area, effectively increasing the housing supply. This approach has been implemented in other cities, such as Houston, where smaller lot size requirements have facilitated the development of more affordable housing options.

Implementing this policy in Dallas would involve revising existing zoning ordinances to allow for smaller lot sizes in designated residential areas. This change aims to promote diverse housing options, enhance affordability, and accommodate the city's growing population.

It's important to note that while this policy focuses on single-family homes, it complements broader efforts to reform zoning laws and land use regulations, which are essential for addressing housing affordability comprehensively.

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?

The primary threat to housing security for LGBTQ+ individuals in Dallas is discrimination, which manifests in various forms:

- **Rental and Purchase Bias:** Despite legal protections, LGBTQ+ individuals often face prejudice when renting or buying homes, leading to limited housing options.
- **Shelter Exclusion:** Many LGBTQ+ youth and seniors encounter unwelcoming or hostile environments in shelters, resulting in increased homelessness within the community.

To combat these challenges, I propose the following measures:

1. Strengthen Anti-Discrimination Enforcement

- **Enhance Legal Protections:** While Dallas prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in housing, it's crucial to ensure these laws are actively enforced. I will advocate for increased funding and resources for agencies responsible for investigating and addressing housing discrimination complaints.
- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Launch initiatives to educate both landlords and tenants about LGBTQ+ rights, fostering a more inclusive housing market.

2. Support LGBTQ+ Affirming Housing Initiatives

- **Collaborate with Organizations:** Partner with groups like Dallas Hope Charities, which operates transitional living programs for LGBTQ+ young adults, to expand their reach and resources.
- **Develop Inclusive Housing Projects:** Promote the creation of affordable housing communities, such as Oak Lawn Place, designed to provide safe and welcoming environments for LGBTQ+ seniors.

3. Provide Targeted Support Services

- **Transitional Assistance:** Offer programs that assist LGBTQ+ individuals in securing stable housing, including rental assistance and financial literacy education.
- **Crisis Intervention:** Establish support systems for those facing immediate housing crises, ensuring they have access to safe and affirming temporary accommodations.

By implementing these strategies, we can work towards eliminating housing discrimination and ensuring that all LGBTQ+ residents in Dallas have access to secure and welcoming homes.

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?

To effectively address housing inequality and escalating rental prices in Dallas, I propose the following policy initiatives:

1. Ban on Algorithmic Rent-Setting Software

Recent reports have highlighted that landlord utilizing rent-setting algorithms, such as those developed by Richardson-based RealPage, have charged Dallas-area renters an average of \$132 more per month in 2023. These algorithms can artificially inflate rental prices by analyzing market data and recommending higher rents, often leading to reduced affordability and accessibility for tenants. To counteract this, I advocate for an ordinance prohibiting the use of such algorithmic pricing tools in rental markets, ensuring that rent prices are determined by fair market practices rather than automated systems.

2. Inclusionary Zoning Policies

Implementing inclusionary zoning requires developers to allocate a percentage of new housing units for affordable housing. This approach promotes mixed-income communities and increases the availability of affordable housing options. By mandating that a portion of new developments be designated for low- to moderate-income families, we can work towards reducing housing inequality and providing more equitable housing opportunities.

3. Strengthening and Enforcing Anti-Discrimination Ordinances

The City of Dallas Fair Housing Ordinance prohibits discrimination in housing based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, and disability. To further address housing inequality, it's essential to ensure robust enforcement of these protections and consider expanding them to include source of income and other vulnerable categories. This would involve providing adequate resources for the Fair Housing Office to investigate complaints and conduct regular audits to ensure compliance, thereby fostering a more inclusive housing environment.

By implementing these policies, we can take significant steps toward mitigating housing inequality and stabilizing rental prices in Dallas, ensuring that all residents have access to fair and affordable housing.

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. *

I would rate Dallas' delivery of public safety services as a 7 out of 10. This rating reflects notable achievements in crime reduction and emergency response, balanced against challenges in police staffing and financial constraints.

Achievements:

- Crime Reduction: As of October 2024, reported crime in Dallas has decreased by nearly 10% compared to the previous year, marking the third consecutive year of decline since pandemic-era peaks.
- Fire-Rescue Excellence: Dallas Fire-Rescue has earned a Class 1 rating from the Insurance Service Organization (ISO), the highest possible rating, indicating superior fire protection services.

Challenges:

- Police Staffing: The Dallas Police Department has faced difficulties in recruitment and retention, though it has exceeded its 2024 goal by hiring over 250 new officers.
- Financial Constraints: In November 2024, Moody's Investors Service revised Dallas' financial outlook from stable to negative, partly due to voter-approved City Charter amendments mandating increased public safety spending, which may limit financial flexibility for other city services.

While Dallas has made significant strides in enhancing public safety, addressing staffing shortages and managing financial resources are critical areas that require ongoing attention to maintain and improve service delivery.

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

To enhance public safety in Dallas, I support the implementation of the Office of Integrated Public Safety Solutions (OIPSS). Established in April 2020, OIPSS proactively addresses systemic factors contributing to criminal activity by providing non-law enforcement solutions that improve community quality of life and reduce the demand for police services.

This approach aligns with evidence suggesting that addressing root causes of crime—such as poverty, lack of education, and unemployment—can lead to more sustainable reductions in criminal behavior. By focusing on prevention and community engagement, OIPSS complements traditional law enforcement efforts, fostering a safer and more resilient community.

Conversely, I oppose the implementation of a ban on algorithmic rent-setting software. While concerns about automated systems potentially inflating rental prices are valid, a blanket ban may inadvertently hinder technological advancements that can enhance efficiency and transparency in the housing market.

Instead, I advocate for the development and enforcement of regulations that ensure algorithmic tools are used responsibly. This includes requiring transparency in how algorithms determine pricing, conducting regular audits to prevent discriminatory practices, and ensuring that such tools do not disproportionately impact vulnerable populations. By implementing these safeguards, we can harness the benefits of technology while protecting tenants from potential abuses.

In summary, supporting proactive, community-based public safety initiatives like OIPSS and regulating the use of technology in housing can lead to more effective and equitable outcomes for all residents.

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.

Ensuring that LGBTQ+ individuals feel safe, secure, and respected within Dallas requires a comprehensive approach involving collaboration with public safety officials at all levels of government. Here's how I would work toward this goal:

1. Strengthen Community Partnerships

- **Support Existing Programs:** Dallas has established initiatives like the Safe Place Program, which partners with local businesses and organizations to provide safe havens for individuals facing hate crimes or emergencies. I would advocate for the expansion and promotion of such programs to ensure broader community participation and awareness.
- **Enhance Training and Education:** Collaborate with organizations such as the Resource Center, which offers programs and resources for the LGBTQIA+ community, to provide cultural competency training for law enforcement and public safety personnel. This training would focus on understanding LGBTQ+ issues, reducing biases, and improving interactions between law enforcement and the LGBTQ+ community.

2. Advocate for Inclusive Policies

- **Support Non-Discrimination Measures:** Dallas has been recognized for its commitment to equality, scoring 100 on the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index. I would work to maintain and enhance these policies, ensuring that LGBTQ+ individuals are protected from discrimination in all public services.
- **Promote Safe Spaces:** Encourage the designation of more safe spaces within the community, where LGBTQ+ individuals can seek refuge and support. This includes supporting businesses and organizations that commit to being inclusive and safe for LGBTQ+ patrons.

3. Foster Open Communication

- **Establish Clear Reporting Channels:** Ensure that LGBTQ+ individuals have accessible and confidential means to report incidents of discrimination, harassment, or violence. This could involve dedicated hotlines, online platforms, and community liaison officers trained to handle such reports sensitively.
- **Engage in Community Dialogues:** Organize regular town hall meetings and forums where LGBTQ+ community members can voice concerns, provide feedback, and collaborate with public safety officials to address specific issues affecting their safety and well-being.

4. Monitor and Evaluate Progress

- **Implement Regular Assessments:** Conduct periodic evaluations of public safety policies and practices to ensure they effectively meet the needs of the LGBTQ+ community. This includes gathering data on incidents involving LGBTQ+ individuals and using this information to inform policy adjustments.
- **Ensure Accountability:** Hold public safety officials accountable for maintaining inclusive and respectful practices. This can be achieved through oversight committees, transparency in reporting, and public access to information regarding the handling of LGBTQ+ related incidents.

By adopting these strategies, we can create a safer and more inclusive environment for LGBTQ+ individuals in Dallas, fostering trust and cooperation between the community and public safety officials.

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? *

Recent data indicates a concerning rise in hate crimes targeting LGBTQ+ individuals in Dallas and the broader Texas area. In 2022, the Dallas Police Department investigated 40 hate crimes, marking a significant increase from previous years. Statewide, Texas set a new record for hate crimes, with over 56% of incidents in 2022 targeting LGBTQ+ and Black communities.

In response to these incidents, I propose the following measures to enhance safety and respect for the LGBTQ+ community in Dallas:

1. Strengthen Hate Crime Reporting and Response

- Enhance Reporting Mechanisms: Collaborate with organizations like the Dallas Hope Charities' Safe Place program to encourage victims to report hate crimes, ensuring swift and appropriate responses.
- Improve Data Collection: Work with law enforcement agencies to collect and analyze data on hate crimes, enabling targeted interventions and resource allocation.

2. Expand Community Education and Training

- Cultural Competency Training: Implement training programs for law enforcement and public safety officials to improve interactions with LGBTQ+ individuals, fostering trust and understanding.
- Public Awareness Campaigns: Launch initiatives to educate the community about LGBTQ+ issues and the importance of inclusivity, reducing prejudice and discrimination.

3. Enhance Legal Protections

- Support Non-Discrimination Policies: Advocate for policies that protect LGBTQ+ individuals from discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations.
- Strengthen Hate Crime Legislation: Work to ensure that hate crimes against LGBTQ+ individuals are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law, serving as a deterrent to potential offenders.

By implementing these strategies, Dallas can work towards creating a safer and more inclusive environment for LGBTQ+ individuals, addressing the recent uptick in hate crimes and setting an example for other cities to follow.

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 African American. I fully understand the needs of African Americans in the US and within District 8.

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.

To enhance climate resilience in Dallas, I propose the adoption of the Comprehensive Environmental & Climate Action Plan (CECAP), which was unanimously approved on May 27, 2020. This plan outlines eight action-oriented goals aimed at improving quality of life, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and preparing for the impacts of climate change.

Key Components of CECAP:

1. Renewable Energy: Transitioning to renewable energy sources to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.
2. Energy-Efficient Building Construction: Promoting the construction of energy-efficient buildings to lower energy consumption.
3. Access to Sustainable Transportation: Enhancing public transportation options and infrastructure to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport.
4. Zero Waste: Implementing waste reduction and recycling programs to minimize landfill use.
5. Water Resource Protection: Ensuring the sustainable management of water resources to address drought conditions.
6. Green Spaces: Expanding and maintaining green spaces to improve air quality and provide recreational areas.
7. Access to Healthy and Local Food: Supporting local agriculture and food systems to promote healthy eating.
8. Clean Air: Implementing measures to reduce air pollution and improve air quality.

By fully implementing CECAP, Dallas can achieve significant and measurable reductions in carbon emissions, enhance environmental quality for vulnerable residents, and create a more sustainable infrastructure capable of withstanding the negative effects of climate change.

Additionally, the Dallas County Climate Resiliency Portal provides resources and information on mitigating climate impacts and incorporating resilience into county operations, further supporting the city's climate resilience efforts.

By adopting and fully implementing CECAP, Dallas can make significant strides toward becoming a more climate-resilient city, benefiting both the environment and its residents.

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

I will continue to be a member of Southern Sector Rising, which is an environmental justice nonprofit organization.

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 present a cohesive and unified message of support for the LGBTQ+ community in Dallas, I plan to collaborate with local organizations, city officials, and community leaders to implement the following strategies:

1. Strengthen Partnerships with Local LGBTQ+ Organizations

- Resource Center: Partner with the Resource Center, which offers comprehensive services including behavioral health, dental care, and support groups for various demographics within the LGBTQ+ community.
- Dallas Hope Center: Support initiatives by the Dallas Hope Center, focusing on reducing homelessness among LGBTQ+ young adults through affirming transitional living programs.
- North Texas LGBT Chamber of Commerce: Collaborate with the Chamber to promote economic inclusion and support LGBTQ+ businesses, fostering a more inclusive economic environment.

2. Engage with City Leadership and Policy Makers

- City Council Initiatives: Work with the Dallas City Council to uphold and expand policies that protect LGBTQ+ individuals, such as the amendment to the City Charter prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.
- LGBT Task Force: Support the efforts of the city's LGBT Task Force in addressing issues pertinent to the community, ensuring that their recommendations are considered in city planning and policy development.

3. Promote Inclusive City Events and Celebrations

- Pride Month Celebrations: Advocate for the continuation and expansion of Pride Month events, including the display of the Pride Flag at City Hall, to publicly affirm the city's commitment to LGBTQ+ rights and visibility.
- Community Forums: Organize forums and town hall meetings to facilitate open dialogue between city officials, LGBTQ+ organizations, and community members, fostering mutual understanding and collaboration.

4. Support Legislative Advocacy

- State and Federal Advocacy: Collaborate with state and federal representatives to support legislation that protects and advances the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals, ensuring that Dallas's commitment to equality is reflected at all levels of government.
- Policy Development: Work with local policymakers to develop and implement policies that address specific needs within the LGBTQ+ community, such as healthcare access, housing, and employment protections.

5. Foster Community Engagement and Education

- Public Awareness Campaigns: Launch campaigns to educate the broader community about LGBTQ+ issues, promoting inclusivity and reducing discrimination.
- Training Programs: Implement training for city employees and law enforcement on LGBTQ+ cultural competency to ensure respectful and informed interactions with community members.

By actively engaging with these organizations and initiatives, and collaborating with city leadership, we can present a unified and cohesive message of support for the LGBTQ+ community in Dallas, ensuring that all individuals feel valued, respected, and included.

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? *

To present a cohesive and unified message of support for the LGBTQ+ community in Dallas, I plan to collaborate with local organizations, city officials, and community leaders to implement the following strategies:

1. Strengthen Partnerships with Local LGBTQ+ Organizations

- Resource Center: Partner with the Resource Center, which offers comprehensive services including behavioral health, dental care, and support groups for various demographics within the LGBTQ+ community.
- PFLAG Dallas: Collaborate with PFLAG Dallas, a group that supports the LGBTQ+ community, their parents, families, friends, and allies, focusing on education and advocacy for equality.
- North Texas LGBT Chamber of Commerce: Work with the Chamber to promote economic inclusion and support LGBTQ+ businesses, fostering a more inclusive economic environment.

2. Engage with City Leadership and Policy Makers

- City Council Initiatives: Work with the Dallas City Council to uphold and expand policies that protect LGBTQ+ individuals, such as the amendment to the City Charter prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.
- LGBT Task Force: Support the efforts of the city's LGBT Task Force in addressing issues pertinent to the community, ensuring that their recommendations are considered in city planning and policy development.

3. Promote Inclusive City Events and Celebrations

- Pride Month Celebrations: Advocate for the continuation and expansion of Pride Month events, including the display of the Pride Flag at City Hall, to publicly affirm the city's commitment to LGBTQ+ rights and visibility.
- Community Forums: Organize forums and town hall meetings to facilitate open dialogue between city officials, LGBTQ+ organizations, and community members, fostering mutual understanding and collaboration.

4. Support Legislative Advocacy

- State and Federal Advocacy: Collaborate with state and federal representatives to support legislation that protects and advances the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals, ensuring that Dallas's commitment to equality is reflected at all levels of government.
- Policy Development: Work with local policymakers to develop and implement policies that address specific needs within the LGBTQ+ community, such as healthcare access, housing, and employment protections.

5. Foster Community Engagement and Education

- Public Awareness Campaigns: Launch campaigns to educate the broader community about LGBTQ+ issues, promoting inclusivity and reducing discrimination.
- Training Programs: Implement training for city employees and law enforcement on LGBTQ+ cultural competency to ensure respectful and informed interactions with community members.

By actively engaging with these organizations and initiatives, and collaborating with city leadership, we can present a unified and cohesive message of support for the LGBTQ+ community in Dallas, ensuring that all individuals feel valued, respected, and included.

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.

Yes, I believe the Texas State Legislature has engaged in government overreach, particularly concerning legislation that impacts the rights and well-being of the LGBTQ+ community. In recent years, lawmakers have enacted several laws that restrict the freedoms of LGBTQ+ individuals, including bans on gender-affirming care for minors and limitations on transgender athletes' participation in sports. For instance, in 2023, the legislature passed bills banning puberty blockers and hormone therapy for transgender youth and restricting the college sports teams that transgender athletes can join.

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

To advance LGBTQ+ rights at the local level in Dallas, I propose implementing a comprehensive LGBTQ+ Non-Discrimination Ordinance. While Dallas has made significant strides in protecting LGBTQ+ individuals, including prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in private employment, city employment, housing, public accommodations, and city contractors, there is room for enhancement. Key Components of the Proposed Ordinance:

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

I do not support it. I do believe they are not cooperating with ICE.

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 have not engaged in any activities or held any positions that would raise concerns or require further explanation.

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

Erik Wilson

This form was created inside of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas.

