

# 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 \*

Lauraacadena@gmail.com

## General Information

Candidate Name \*

Laura Cadena

1. District/Office Sought \*

City of Dallas District 6

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 block walked and helped on campaigns for Council Member Omar Narvaez and State Rep Jessica Gonzalez who ran as openly gay candidates. I served for 7.5 years on staff with CM Narvaez, he was my friend and taught me how to be a better ally every day. During his tenure our office worked with the LGBT Task Force and planned the annual City of Dallas Pride event and worked at finding ways to increase the number of locations where the Official City of Dallas Pride flag was flown and/or celebrated. In addition, I included the LGBTQ+ employee groups to participate in the Council Float during the Pride Parade. I have also been a member of Stonewall Democrats for a few years, even prior to thinking about running for office.

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 am a Democrat. There was a short time when I did vote republican or considered myself independent but now I am a strong democrat who strives to participate in the election process at every opportunity.

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

I served as Chief of Staff for Council Member Omar Narvaez for almost 8 years. During that time I ran the Council Office and worked in resolving issues that residents were having. I also helped educate residents in how to access services. My family has lived in District 6 for almost 80 years. My motivation to work at City Hall was to learn how to access city government and teach my community how to do so as well.

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

- A) One of my first duties will be to evaluate our board and commission members and create a matrix to make certain that representatives are as diverse as our district.
- B) I want to determine the status of our bond projects for 2017 and 2024.
- C) Before I left the city I was working on using TIF funding to build a new fire station in District 6. I would like to see that fire station be completed.
- D) I want to continue to visit all of our neighborhoods and attend crime watch and neighborhood meetings. These meetings are so valuable as they allow a council member to know what is happening in neighborhoods.

### 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.

Five - While District 6 has built many affordable units and the city created the Housing Finance Corporation, we are still in need of more affordable housing.

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

I would like to see more neighborhoods to be aware that they can opt into the use of ADU's. This may not be for every neighborhood but there is a neighborhood in Oak Cliff that decided this was a good option for them.

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 state needs to pass a comprehensive non discrimination policy that protects individuals from discrimination because of sexual orientation or gender identity in areas of employment, housing or public accommodations. Until the state passes a law to protect individuals then we have the responsibility as local electeds to protect individuals. Dallas has a non-discrimination ordinance which includes protections on housing.

There is not a single threat but multiple. In Washington, HUD Secretary Scot Turner's first action was to HALF enforcement of HUD's gender identity rule.

We have a disproportionate amount of young LGBTQ+ people experiencing homelessness. The current political climate may exasperate this. Dallas does not currently have housing for LGBTQ+youth. This is something that we could work on.

In addition, LGBTQ+ seniors may have very special needs that require wrap around services. in Dallas we supported the Resource Center's Oak Lawn Place.

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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?

As an apartment dweller I am concerned about algorithmic rent control. There are multiple lawsuits pending against RealPage from the District of Columbia, Tennessee, and Washington state among others. Currently only the state of Colorado has considered state legislative solutions on algorithmic pricing. This issue is gaining some traction in the U.S. Congress with legislation proposed on the senate side to ban algorithmic pricing by Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR).

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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 say a 7. While DPD has done an excellent job in lowering our violent crime rates by targeting HOT spots, services for lower level issues may receive slow response times. There is a national shortage of police so we must focus on retaining officers. Overall our officers are doing a great job with the resources they have. We may also be able to use other agencies to supplement the work of DPD. At Bachman Lake Park, the city was able to use Dallas Marshall's to help address some of the public safety issues that were occurring at the park. The expansion of the Park Ranger program has also assisted DPD with addressing some of the public safety issues in District 6 at public parks.

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

Public Safety Policy I support is the Right Care Program which includes Dallas Fire, Dallas Police and Parkland Staff. One that I oppose is the teen curfew because it can unfairly target minority communities

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. \*

During my time at City Hall, when there were safety issues within the LGBTQ+ community we met with DPD, other departments, and the community to keep everyone informed and hear concerns.

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? \*

The most recent occurrence that I recall is when the Governor made comments about Drag Queens. Our office was in charge of the Pride Awards dinner and we had Drag Queens perform at City Hall.

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 member of a historically marginalized group.

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. \*

I strongly support the Comprehensive Environmental & Climate Action Plan (CECAP) was created in 2020. The plan is a 30-year plan to address environmental issues and also requires the city to review the plan periodically for updates or changes.

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

District 6 has had a number of environmental issues. While at the city I was able to help constituents navigate the system to make ordinance changes, turn in code violations and turn in illegal land use issues. In some instances if companies did not come into compliance community prosecution became involved in the process.

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? \*

While at City Hall, I have been able to work with various organizations at many levels of government that support the LGBTQ+ community. This included expanding the Pride celebration to not only include council members but elected officials that served at the state, federal, county and city. We also included LGBTQ+ employee groups and community members in the council pride parade and other citywide celebrations.

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? \*

Option 1

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, but we must fight for local control. An example of this is trying to pass the vouchers bill for the second session.

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

Given that the state of Texas does not have an ordinance or non discrimination police in place.

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

DPD is a law enforcement agency and not a part of immigration.

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) \*

Laura Cadena

This form was created inside of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas.

