

# 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 \*

pc@pcmathew.com

General Information

Candidate Name \*

PC Mathew

1. District/Office Sought \*

Garland Mayor

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.

Garland is a diverse and growing city, and it is essential that everyone feels safe, valued, and empowered. The key needs of the LGBTQ+ community in Garland include:

Safety & Protection – Ensuring that hate crimes, discrimination, and harassment are addressed and that all residents feel secure in their homes, workplaces, and public spaces.

Equal Opportunities – Promoting fair employment, housing, and healthcare access without discrimination. Supporting LGBTQ+ business owners and entrepreneurs in our local economy.

Community Support & Representation – Encouraging LGBTQ+ voices in city leadership, advisory boards, and decision-making to foster an inclusive environment.

Youth & Mental Health Resources – Strengthening support systems in schools, counseling services, and community programs for LGBTQ+ youth and individuals facing discrimination or mental health challenges.

Citywide Inclusivity – Advocating for inclusive policies that protect LGBTQ+ rights and ensure that Garland is welcoming to all residents, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation.

As Mayor, my goal is to make Garland a city where everyone—regardless of background—can thrive, contribute, and feel a sense of belonging. Let's build a stronger, more inclusive future together!

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 affirm my Party affiliation and my unwavering commitment to democratic values. If endorsed, I will continue to support and uphold these principles with integrity and dedication.

I am grateful for the guidance of Dwight Briggs, who has been one of my key mentors throughout this election. I also proudly support Richardson Mayor Bob Dubey and candidates who have been guided by Dwight's leadership.

In my last campaign event at Granville Arts Center, I was honored to have the support of Judge Margaret O'Brien, Councilman Ed Moore, Richardson Council Members René Butler and Elizabeth Abraham, along with many other distinguished leaders. Their presence and encouragement reinforce my commitment to serving the people of Garland with strong leadership, inclusivity, and a vision for a better and more prosperous city.

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

A Lifetime of Leadership, Service, and Community Impact:

I currently serve on the Garland Senior Citizens Advisory Commission and previously served on the Garland Environmental Advisory Board. In 2021, I ran as a runoff candidate for District 3, and in 2023, I ran again, significantly increasing my voter base. Through this journey, I built a strong friendship with the incumbent councilman, who recognized my passion for serving the community as a Good Samaritan. As he seeks re-election in District 3, he requested that I avoid a race against him, a request I took positively, securing his full support for my candidacy for Mayor of Garland.

My leadership extends beyond politics. I have been the HOA President of Shores of Wellington, one of Garland's largest communities, and Vice President of Rustic Oaks. My leadership journey began during my school days in India, where I served as High School Leader, was elected three times as University Union Councilor at Bishop Abraham Memorial College, and later became a University Union Executive Board Member and Senate Member of Mahatma Gandhi University (1983).

I have also been deeply involved in ethnic and cultural organizations, serving as Local President, America Region Vice President & President, and Global Vice President of the World Malayalee Council, a global network organization connecting people of Kerala, India. Through this platform, I have organized blood donation drives, free medical camps, and numerous cultural events, earning widespread recognition in the community.

During my 20 years in Bahrain, I was nominated by the Education Minister to serve on the Indian School Bahrain Board, a public entity where I led as Chairman of the Sports Division. I also served as President of the Charity and Assistance Association of Parents of the Indian School, making a lasting impact on the multicultural community.

In the U.S., I have actively supported Margaret O'Brien in her campaign for County Judge and State Representative Rhetta Bowers, demonstrating my commitment to bipartisan leadership and community empowerment. I am also a member of the NAACP, a member of ICEC (Indian Organization with 1,500 members in Garland), and have attended numerous events hosted by the Richardson Chamber of Commerce and North Dallas Chamber of Commerce Legislative Sessions. Through these platforms, I have voiced the realistic needs of the people, advocated for practical solutions, and made a meaningful impact.

With a proactive approach to problem-solving and a deep passion for serving with love and inclusivity, I am committed to uniting Garland's multicultural community under democratic principles that honor diversity while preserving core values.

Having lived 24 years in India, 20 years in the Middle East, and 20 years in Dallas, I bring a unique global perspective that enables me to understand the needs of Garland's diverse population. I firmly believe that this experience positions me as the best candidate for Mayor, ready to serve this great city with integrity, vision, and dedication.

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

My self in attended Garland City Council meetings and works sessions many times. City Council and the City Manager oversees daily administration. Given this structure, the Mayor's role is primarily leadership, policy advocacy, and community representation rather than direct management of city operations.

However, my Top Priorities for a Mayor in Garland are:

**Building Consensus & Strong Council Collaboration** – Since the Mayor has one vote like other Council members, fostering unity, collaboration, and strategic decision-making is essential to move Garland forward.

**Advancing Public Safety** – Strengthening police-community relationships, investing in emergency response, and ensuring Garland remains a safe place to live and work should be a top focus.

**Economic Growth & Business Development** – Encouraging small businesses, attracting major employers, and expanding job opportunities will create a stronger economy. The Mayor should advocate for smart development, revitalization of key areas, and infrastructure improvements that support business growth.

**Infrastructure & Smart Growth** – Working with the Council and City Manager to prioritize roads, public transportation, drainage, and utility improvements is key to long-term city success.

**Championing Inclusivity & Community Engagement** – Representing all residents by ensuring their voices are heard and promoting programs that celebrate Garland's multicultural diversity.

**Strengthening Regional & State Partnerships** – The Mayor should advocate for Garland at the county, state, and federal levels, securing grants and resources for community projects.

**Keeping Promises & Transparent Leadership** – Maintaining public trust through clear communication, accessibility, and ethical leadership ensures credibility and accountability.

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## 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.

My rating is 7 since lot of affordable homes are in place and under construction. While Garland has made progress, there’s still room for improvement. Expanding affordable housing, reducing barriers to homeownership, and fostering smart development will be crucial in ensuring Garland remains an inclusive and thriving city for all residents.

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

I propose a "Zoning Reform & Affordable Housing Incentive Ordinance." This ordinance will:

Encourage Mixed-Use & Higher-Density Development – Update zoning laws to allow for more townhomes, duplexes, and mixed-use developments in underutilized areas, reducing housing shortages.

Public-Private Partnerships – Work with developers to convert vacant or underused commercial properties into residential housing, increasing supply without urban sprawl.

Incentives for First-Time Homebuyers & Seniors – Expand assistance programs to help first-time buyers and offer property tax relief for seniors to prevent displacement.

This ordinance will increase the housing supply, stabilize prices, and create a diverse range of living options while maintaining Garland’s community character and economic growth.

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?

As a realtor, I have learned to treat all community with equality. The greatest threat to LGBTQ+ individuals in Garland regarding housing security is discrimination and affordability barriers. While federal and state laws prohibit housing discrimination, LGBTQ+ residents still face bias in renting, homeownership, and housing assistance programs. Youth homelessness is also a critical issue, as LGBTQ+ individuals—especially young adults—experience higher rates of family rejection, eviction, and financial instability.

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 ensure fair and affordable housing, I propose the following ordinances and policy changes:

1. Ban on Algorithmic Rent Pricing Manipulation

Introduce an ordinance to prohibit the use of rent-setting algorithms that artificially inflate rental prices and reduce competition.

Require transparency and public disclosure from corporate landlords and property management companies that use algorithmic pricing models.

Establish penalties for predatory rent increases driven by algorithmic collusion.

2. Tenant Protections & Rental Stability Act

Enforce reasonable limits on excessive rent increases (e.g., no more than 10% annual increase, similar to other Texas cities).

Require longer notice periods (at least 90 days) for rent hikes or lease non-renewals to prevent sudden displacement.

Strengthen tenant rights protections against retaliatory evictions.

3. Inclusionary Housing & Affordable Development Incentives

Mandate that new multi-family developments include a percentage of affordable housing units or contribute to a housing fund.

Provide tax incentives for landlords who keep rental prices below market rates for low- and moderate-income residents.

4. Strengthening Housing Assistance Programs

Expand rental assistance programs for seniors, veterans, and marginalized communities.

Partner with local nonprofits and faith-based organizations to provide emergency housing support and transitional housing options.

5. Community Land Trusts & Affordable Homeownership Programs

Establish a Garland Community Land Trust to acquire land and maintain permanently affordable housing options.

Offer down payment assistance and low-interest loans for first-time homebuyers, especially for working families.

The above policies can be submitted to the council for approval with majority votes.

These policies will help make Garland's housing market more equitable, transparent, and affordable for all residents.

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. \*

My rating is 8 and I am in the Current Police Citizens Academy and gained lot of knowledge. Garland's public safety services are strong, with well-trained police and fire departments, effective emergency response, and community policing programs. However, improvements are needed in expanding police presence, enhancing mental health crisis response, and increasing traffic safety measures. Investing in technology, recruitment, and community-based programs will further strengthen public safety in Garland.

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

Community Policing and Partnership Programs: Why Support: Community policing builds trust and cooperation between law enforcement and residents. Programs like Neighborhood Watch and the Garland Citizens Police Academy help residents engage with officers, understand their roles, and work together to address crime. This approach leads to better crime prevention, quicker response times, and a safer, more cohesive community.

Public Safety Policy to Oppose: Overuse of "No-Knock" Warrants

Why Oppose: "No-knock" warrants, where police enter homes without prior warning, can lead to increased risk of violent confrontations. Studies have shown that these warrants disproportionately affect marginalized communities and can result in civil rights violations. Instead, more emphasis should be placed on intelligent, evidence-based policing that respects residents' rights while maintaining safety.



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.

As Mayor, my primary focus will be to create an environment where all residents, including the LGBTQ+ community, feel safe, secure, and respected. To achieve this, I would take the following actions:

1. Comprehensive LGBTQ+ Inclusion Training

Mandate training for all public safety officials, including police, fire, and emergency responders, focused on LGBTQ+ cultural competency and de-escalation techniques. This training would emphasize respectful communication, understanding specific needs, and ensuring safety during interactions.

Partner with local LGBTQ+ organizations to provide expert-led sessions on issues such as discrimination, hate crimes, and sensitive care.

2. Strengthening Anti-Discrimination Policies

Review and enhance Garland's public safety policies to ensure they explicitly prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression.

Create an accessible, confidential reporting mechanism for LGBTQ+ residents to report incidents of discrimination or abuse by public safety officials, with zero tolerance for retaliation.

3. Increase LGBTQ+ Representation in Public Safety

Encourage and support the hiring of LGBTQ+ individuals within public safety departments to ensure representation. Having diverse voices in leadership positions can help foster more inclusive and empathetic policies.

Develop mentorship and recruitment programs that encourage LGBTQ+ youth to consider careers in law enforcement and emergency services, fostering greater diversity and inclusion.

4. Community Engagement and Accountability

Hold regular town halls with the LGBTQ+ community to understand their concerns about safety and build trust between public safety officials and residents. This will also provide a platform for feedback on current policies.

Establish a community oversight board that includes LGBTQ+ representatives to ensure that policies and practices reflect the values of inclusivity, equity, and respect.

5. Swift Action on Hate Crimes and Violence

Increase vigilance and resources for the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes targeting LGBTQ+ individuals. Publicly acknowledge and condemn hate-based violence, sending a clear message that discrimination and violence against LGBTQ+ people will not be tolerated.

6. Partnering with LGBTQ+ Advocacy Groups

Collaborate closely with local LGBTQ+ advocacy groups such as PFLAG and Lambda Legal to ensure that best practices for LGBTQ+ safety are incorporated into all public safety operations.

Support programs that provide safe spaces for LGBTQ+ individuals, particularly youth, who may face discrimination or homelessness due to their sexual orientation or gender identity.



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? \*

As of now, there haven't been any widely reported or highly publicized incidents of LGBTQ+ hate or violence specifically in Garland. However, this doesn't mean that we are immune to such challenges, and we must remain proactive in ensuring that all communities, including the LGBTQ+ community, feel safe, valued, and respected.

Plan to Address LGBTQ+ Hate and Violence as Mayor:

If such incidents were to occur, I would take the following steps to address them effectively and with the utmost seriousness:

Swift and Strong Action Against Hate Crimes:

Ensure that hate crimes involving LGBTQ+ individuals are investigated thoroughly and given the highest priority. Garland Police would be trained to specifically recognize and address hate crimes, with a focus on LGBTQ+ related violence.

Work closely with the District Attorney's office to ensure swift prosecution of offenders who target LGBTQ+ individuals with hate-based violence or threats.

Strengthen Community Relations and Reporting Channels:

Implement an accessible, confidential reporting mechanism for residents to report hate crimes or discrimination related to LGBTQ+ status.

Encourage LGBTQ+ residents to engage with local law enforcement in a safe and supportive environment, ensuring that their concerns are heard and addressed without fear of retaliation or bias.

Visible and Public Support for the LGBTQ+ Community:

Publicly condemn any act of hate, violence, or discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community and emphasize Garland's commitment to creating an inclusive and supportive city.

Create community events or initiatives that celebrate LGBTQ+ contributions, such as LGBTQ+ Pride Month, to foster a culture of acceptance and respect.

Provide Supportive Resources for Victims:

Provide immediate counseling and support services for individuals impacted by LGBTQ+ hate crimes. This could include mental health services, legal aid, and connections to LGBTQ+ advocacy groups.

Partner with local organizations such as Lambda Legal and PFLAG to provide victims with the necessary resources and legal support.

Lessons Other Cities Can Learn:

For cities that have faced such incidents or are working to prevent them, they can learn the following strategies:

Prevention Through Education and Outreach:

Implement anti-discrimination education programs within schools, workplaces, and community centers to reduce bias and promote understanding of LGBTQ+ issues.

Foster community-based initiatives that build trust between law enforcement and the LGBTQ+ community,

ensuring both sides feel supported.

Strong Anti-Discrimination Laws:

Enforce strong, clear laws that protect LGBTQ+ individuals in housing, employment, and public accommodations. A robust legal framework ensures that hate-based acts have consequences and sets a clear standard of protection for marginalized communities.

Community-Led Support and Safe Spaces:

Establish LGBTQ+ safe spaces, community centers, and hotlines where individuals can receive support, resources, and assistance if they face discrimination, violence, or fear for their safety.

Encourage local businesses and organizations to become allies by offering support and ensuring safe environments for LGBTQ+ individuals.

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 NAACP and it is not limited to one particular marginalized group, it is closely aligned with the goals of supporting marginalized communities. Members of the NAACP are often individuals who are committed to fighting racism, inequality, and social justice for all historically disadvantaged groups. The marginalized community shall be equally treated with respect and shall be given opportunities for job and promote their business. The Global Indian Council, wherein I serve as the Global President has a division for Marginalized community to served them. We have done charity works for them in India where lot of marginalized communities live. Therefore I have very good knowledge about the importance of keeping them together to move Garland ahead.

## 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. \*

As an environmental-loving individual, I have always believed in the urgency of protecting our planet. This passion led me to create a short film titled "An Oath for Survival", highlighting the critical need for environmental stewardship. Please watch <https://youtu.be/SE0Kj2b4raM> As Mayor, I would push for a Green Infrastructure Ordinance, which would include measures like stormwater management, urban heat island mitigation, and sustainable urban planning. These actions would not only make Garland more climate-resilient, but they would also reduce our carbon footprint, improve air and water quality, and enhance the overall health and well-being of our community. Protecting the environment is a commitment I deeply care about, and I will ensure Garland leads in sustainability and climate resilience.

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

As Mayor of Garland, I would address environmental injustices in marginalized communities by implementing the following key plans:

**Equitable Environmental Health Programs:** Identify pollution hotspots in underserved areas, implement clean-up efforts, and provide health support for affected communities.

**Inclusive Green Space:** Ensure equal access to parks, recreational areas, and green infrastructure to improve air quality and provide cooling benefits.

**Community Empowerment:** Establish an Environmental Justice Task Force and offer workshops to educate and empower residents to advocate for cleaner environments.

**Sustainable Housing:** Promote affordable green housing and enforce zoning regulations to prevent polluting industries near residential areas.

**Environmental Equity in Policy:** Ensure marginalized communities have a voice in policy decisions and create processes to review projects through an environmental justice lens.

**Renewable Energy Access:** Expand access to affordable clean energy and invest in climate-resilient infrastructure in vulnerable areas.

**Data and Accountability:** Empower communities to monitor environmental quality and ensure transparency and accountability in addressing environmental disparities.

I believe these plans will help ensure that Garland is a sustainable, equitable city where all residents, regardless of background, can thrive in a safe, healthy environment.

## 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? \*

As Mayor of Garland, I will work with local LGBTQ+ organizations, state and federal allies, and community leaders to create a unified support system for the LGBTQ+ community. Key plans include:

Collaborate with local organizations like PFLAG and Equality Texas to create inclusive policies and resources for LGBTQ+ residents.

Foster partnerships with state and federal groups to align Garland with broader LGBTQ+ rights efforts, advocating for protections and equality.

Introduce inclusive city policies in housing, employment, healthcare, and education, and support LGBTQ+ visibility through initiatives like Pride Month and Rainbow Crosswalks.

Provide training for public safety officials to ensure respectful interactions with the LGBTQ+ community. Build coalitions with allies from businesses, faith-based groups, and healthcare providers to strengthen LGBTQ+ rights.

Advocate for non-discrimination policies and support systems for LGBTQ+ individuals, particularly in housing and healthcare. Hope with the help of council members I will be able to make a difference.

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? \*

It seems the question number 18 is repeated here. Otherwise please advice me. Thank you.

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.

My stance no State intervention. Local governments understand their communities best and should have the authority to make decisions without unnecessary state interference. State overreach can hinder a city's ability to address critical local issues like housing, public safety, and economic development. As Mayor, I will advocate for policies that protect Garland's right to govern itself, ensuring that decisions impacting our residents are made at the local level, not dictated by the state.

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

A comprehensive non-discrimination ordinance (NDO) is one of the best policies to advance LGBTQ+ rights at the local level. This ordinance would explicitly prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in housing, employment, and public accommodations within Garland.

Such an ordinance ensures that LGBTQ+ residents are protected from unfair treatment in workplaces, rental agreements, and businesses, creating a more inclusive and equitable city. It also strengthens Garland's reputation as a welcoming place for all, fostering economic growth and diversity while upholding fundamental human rights.

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

If local police actively enforce federal immigration laws, it may lead to fear and distrust among immigrant communities, making people less likely to report crimes or cooperate with law enforcement. This can weaken public safety and strain community relations. Other than Criminals, we shall get work permit for people here for long time so that there will be sufficient work force in the City.

### 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)

PC MATHEW

This form was created inside of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas.

