

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 *

jeff@jeffkitner.com

General Information

Candidate Name *

Jeff Kitner

1. District/Office Sought *

D 11

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 the Chief Operating Officer of the North Dallas Chamber of Commerce, we have invested in fostering an inclusive business community for everyone. As a part of this work, we feature an ongoing Impacting Inclusion series that promotes inclusivity for people of all backgrounds, including the LGBTQ+ community. We have also worked closely with Tony Vedda, President of the North Texas LGBT Chamber, on a variety of issues over the years. I plan to continue to support the LGBTQ+ community at City Hall. I am supportive of the city's efforts to create safe spaces for all residents in our Dallas public facilities as well as supporting pride celebrations.

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 and I support the values of the Democratic Party. I have exclusively voted in the Democratic primary other than one year when there were no competitive Democratic races in my district, and I wanted to help my friend, Jason Villalba, make it through his contested Republican primary.

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

Friends of Northaven Trail Board Member and Immediate Past President; 2013 – present
Dallas Park and Recreation Board District 11 Representative; 2017 – 2024
Former Chair of Planning and Design Committee
Dallas Trails Coalition Founder; 2022
Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas
Jewish Community Relations Council; 2019-present
Co-Chair, 2023 and 2025 Legislative Day at the State
Jewish Community Center Board of Directors; 2022 – present
Temple Emanu-El Board of Directors; 2024 – present
Friends of Preston Royal Library Board Secretary; 2023 – present
Friends of the Dallas Public Library Board; 2018 – 2024
Advocacy Committee Co-Chair; 2022-2024
SMU Corporate Learning, Master of Public Policy Advisory Board; 2024 – present
Dallas Education Foundation Board of Directors; 2022 – present
United to Learn Community Advisory Board; 2022-present
Woodrow Wilson High School Community Foundation Board
Finance Committee, Vice-Chair; 2021-present
Scholarship Advisory Committee; 2019-2021
Sudie L. Williams TAG Academy, Sudie Gives/North Texas Giving Day Co-Chair; 2023
Campaign raised \$70K
Arthur Kramer Elementary School Site-Based Decision Making Committee; 2018-2020
UT-Southwestern Simmons Cancer Center Community Advisory Board; 2019 – 2024
City of Dallas Tax Increment Financing Zone #20 Board of Directors; 2013 – 2017
Bike DFW UPSHIFT Award Two-Time Finalist
2021 – Mobility Champion of the Year
2024 – Trail Champion of the Year
Dallas Assembly 2020-present
Dallas Breakfast Group Member and Graduate, Community Leaders Program

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

Public Safety: All residents deserve to feel safe and secure in their homes, neighborhoods, and throughout Dallas. I would like to see the City increase the number of police officers on the force and will collaborate with the Dallas Police Department to ensure that officers have the resources they need to continue to reduce violent crime, improve 911 response times, and recruit top talent to our force. Public Safety is the city's largest investment, and our officers deserve competitive pay, a secure pension plan, high-quality training facilities, and strong recruits.

Infrastructure: Dallas has over \$2 billion in needed infrastructure repairs for our streets and alleys, with an additional \$2 billion needed for sidewalk repair. Infrastructure is a key area of investment and oversight for the city. I intend to work closely with city leaders to ensure that our tax dollars are put to good use to make meaningful improvements on the infrastructure. Not only should Dallas be a safe place to live, but it must also have excellent public amenities that encourage people to stay here for life. As a long-time champion for the "Ministry of Happiness" (parks, arts, and libraries), I will continue to advocate for high-quality public spaces that make Dallas the world-class city it is.

Good Governance: The city operates with our tax dollars and that is a serious responsibility. Our tax dollars should be spent efficiently and on core city functions like public safety, infrastructure, parks, and libraries. I am committed to improving service delivery for residents and ensuring that the city is focusing its time and resources on core services rather than issues outside of the scope of city government. I believe that a council member's office should be accessible to their constituents and serve as a resource to help address municipal issues in the district.

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'd rate it as a 5. The city has made efforts in recent years to incentivize affordable housing for developers, but few have taken them up on the offer. An example of this is in my own district where the former Valley View Mall site is located. There is a TIF that developers could dip into by some affordable housing, but no one has opted to use it to date. I believe Dallas should continue to invest in smart development in transportation corridors and spaces that are resource rich, as well as other developable areas outside of single-family neighborhoods. The city can and should do more to address this issue.

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

In 2024, the voters in the City of Dallas approved the borrowing of bond funds to create more affordable housing. If elected, I would work closely with the bond, housing, and homelessness offices to ensure this money was utilized efficiently to address our persistent housing supply issue.

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?

Discrimination remains the largest threat to LGBTQ+ residents with respect to housing security. This is also a common problem when it comes to housing availability in domestic violence shelters, as many shelters do not allow men. I would be supportive of any anti-discrimination policies that can be enacted on a municipal level and in advocating for funding for inclusive domestic violence shelters.

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?

I am in favor of banning algorithmic rent control and would support any ordinance that addresses housing inequality or predatory rental pricing that is within the purview of municipal government.

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'd rate it a 7. The Dallas Police Department has done excellent work in reducing our most violent crimes over the past few years, yet most surveys reflect that residents do not feel safe in our community. This seems to be largely due to the prevalence of property crimes that leave people feeling vulnerable. The city can and should do more to encourage the hiring and retention of high quality officers and increase the presence of officers in neighborhoods and on traffic patrol.

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

Support

I support fully funding the Right Care program to divert cases for people experiencing a mental health crisis from DPD and to a team of trained interventionists. I also support increased funding for crime prevention through environmental design, such as increased lighting or activating spaces with public art to increase safety for all residents.

Oppose

I would oppose any policy that encourages use of excessive force, broken windows policing, or racial profiling. Our community needs to be safe for all residents, especially our historically marginalized 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. *

I would like to make sure that any public officials are committed to anti-discrimination and inclusive policies that ensure all members of our community feel safe and supported.

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? *

While I am not aware of any recent incidents of hate or violence against LGBTQ+ people in our city, I am aware that Texas has one of the highest incidences of hate crimes against transgender residents in the nation. I think first, as a leader, inclusive language matters as do actions. I plan to appoint a diverse group of civic leaders to District 11 boards and commissions, including candidates who identify as LGBTQ+. I am also supportive of the hard work the city has done to create affirming and safe spaces for all members of our community in our publicly owned spaces, including libraries and recreation centers.

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? *

While I am not a member of a historically marginalized group, in my role with the Chamber I consistently work with many organizations that do represent these groups, including the Oak Cliff Chamber of Commerce, the Black Chamber of Commerce, and the North Texas LGBT Chamber to understand the challenges their communities face and ensuring they are addressed head on. The Chamber also leads a Bus Tour of Southern Dallas every year as part of our Impacting Inclusion Series, allowing our board members and other North Dallas community leaders to learn about the opportunities, as well as the challenges, south of Downtown. If elected, I will maintain these relationships and work closely with these partners to ensure members of marginalized communities feel safe.

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. *

Similar to what I did during my 7 years on the City's Parks and Recreation Board, I would continue promoting parks and trails systems in Dallas to reduce reliance on vehicles and increase our green space and tree canopy throughout the community.

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

The city's most powerful tool to address environmental injustice is through zoning and remediation of polluted spaces. If elected, I commit to ensuring fair zoning policies that do not penalize historically marginalized communities and push to remediate pollution such as what occurred at Shingle Mountain swiftly and efficiently.

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? *

I plan to continue to support the LGBTQ+ community at City Hall, including maintaining my relationship with the North Texas LGBT Chamber and other similar groups. I am supportive of the city's efforts to create safe spaces for all residents in our Dallas public facilities as well as supporting pride 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? *

I plan to continue to support the LGBTQ+ community at City Hall, including maintaining my relationship with the North Texas LGBT Chamber and other similar groups. I am supportive of the city's efforts to create safe spaces for all residents in our Dallas public facilities as well as supporting pride celebrations.

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. One of the Chamber's legislative priorities has consistently been for municipal autonomy, and in promoting local control. The state government has engaged in government overreach in a variety of ways, including dictating how local governments can operate, tax and spend their money.

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

I am supportive of a city-level non-discrimination policy for all city-funded contracts and hiring practices.

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

Immigration enforcement is a federal issue and not a city issue. DPD should continue to focus on their primary roles and responsibilities while at the same time following all state and federal laws.

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?

Nothing that I am aware of.

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

Jeff Kitner

This form was created inside of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas.

