

# 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 \*

chad@chadwestdallas.com

## General Information

Candidate Name \*

Chad West

1. District/Office Sought \*

District 1

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 am a member of the LGBTQ+ community as an openly gay man. Our community has always had my back and I will always have theirs, no exceptions.

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 consider myself to be a Democrat. I only vote in Democratic primaries, and have voted in 8/9 of the Democratic primaries from 2008 to 2024.

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

I am currently in my third term on the Dallas City Council and am seeking my fourth and final term. Before that I was appointed by Council Member Scott Griggs to serve on the City Plan Commission and the 2017 bond taskforce.

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

Some of my goals for my last term are to finish the West Oak Cliff Area Plan zoning cases so that neighborhoods who asked for changes and investments from the city have these done. I also want to help the areas in the far western part of my district near Mountain View Campus that joined District 1 in 2023 do their planning and get the same protections. I have several bond projects from fixing streets to investing in parks and planning a redo of our district's only library that I either want to finish or help tee up for the next council member. Lastly, I want to continue to work on housing affordability issues. I have several neighborhoods in my district interested in becoming a conservation district that I am currently helping go through that process. I also want to make sure we are preserving out existing housing while looking at ways to build more to help keep prices down.

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. Dallas has a bad track record of protecting our existing buildings whether it be residential, commercial or something else. My council district has been one of the leaders in the city in terms of things like conservation districts, demolition delays, and encouraging repurposing of existing structures to serve that area's current needs. Like most of the country, Dallas saw a housing construction dip after the Great Recession which created a supply crunch as urban living became more popular and the pandemic worsened housing costs in cities like ours. While we need to protect existing housing, for both cultural preservation and affordability reasons, we desperately need to build more housing in areas that currently don't have any, whether it be downtown or in parts of the city that are underdeveloped.

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

In the Jimtown neighborhood of my district, we implemented the first by-right accessory dwelling unit overlay in the entire city. Jimtown is overwhelmingly Latino working families and retirees. This was done to help multigenerational families live together more easily as well as allow longtime homeowners to build a supplemental unit in their backyard that they could rent out for income. I would like to see more of these across the city.

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 housing conversation is centered on municipal voters who are disproportionately empty-nesters or nuclear families. We need to be looking at encouraging small, for-sale housing options across the city. This would especially help LGBTQ+ couples and individuals.

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?

If the city attorney says Dallas can enact a ban on algorithmic rent hikes even under existing Texas state law, I would support such an ordinance.

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. I have been pleased by the success of the Dallas Police Department's violent crime reduction plan which has made Dallas one of the few large cities in the country to see consistent decreases in violent crime by getting the worst offenders off the streets and having a large police presence in problem areas of the city. However, property crimes have been on the rise and we will need a solution soon to protect our residents from these crimes.

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

I support the RIGHT Care program that sends clinicians to help Dallas Police and Fire to deescalate situations in which a person could be a danger to themselves or others. In general, I oppose the position of some on council to further criminalize homelessness as the first way to deal with homeless people on public land.

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. \*

The City of Dallas has made it clear to our public safety officials over the years that our roles are to serve everyone. No matter how someone looks, how they talk, how they dress, they must be treated with the same respect and a starting point that they are believable.

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? \*

We've had recent successful arts and culture programs involving trans members of our community that have been threatened by Texas state officials. Individual council members, such as myself, and the city as a whole, have made it clear that we won't fold to threats from the state.

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 the LGBTQ+ community and served in the Army during the Don't Ask, Don't Tell community when I felt I had to hide to protect myself. This has given me an appreciation for what my Latino constituents are going through right now. Even citizens and legal residents are worried about profiling right now, and I am doing everything in my power to protect these residents.

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 support keeping a strong public transportation system via DART. I was one of two council members to initiate a task force to see how Dallas was failing in its VisionZero commitments. I have been one of the strongest proponents of expanding bike trails and lanes. I have been the council leader on boulevarding I-345 to restitch downtown and Deep Ellum to create more jobs and housing in central Dallas.

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

One of the aspects of ForwardDallas 2.0 I was most happy to see was a priority on environmental protections for our residents. It was a critical tool in helping the council understand and vote with the residents in the Floral Farms case to get industrial and polluting land uses out of a residential area, and one that was overwhelmingly working class and non-White. It didn't surprise me that all 11 of us that voted for ForwardDallas 2.0 were part of the coalition of 12 council members the stood with the residents of Floral Farm,

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 have a great working relationship with fellow elected officials in the state legislative delegation, county government, and school and college boards. I am proud to be endorsed by most of them in my race. Whenever appropriate, I would welcome ways to work on this. I have never served on the Dallas City Council as the only member of the LGBTQ+ community as I joined at a time when Omar Narvaez and Adam Medrano were there to guide me on being a gay elected official. Based on my understanding of the candidates across all fourteen council districts, I am set to be the only member of our community on the Dallas City Council from 2025 to 2027; though, only if I win. I am fully aware that I need to be the tip of the spear in standing up for our community. And I know that as a gay white man, I need to speak up for those under more frequent and intense attacks than me, especially my trans friends.

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.

I believe the state government has overreached on issues that are the federal government's purview as well as municipal purview. I wish the city could enact policies around the minimum wage, rent control, and marijuana legalization among others.

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

I am proud that the City of Dallas has a full 100-point score from the Human Rights Campaign municipal index. However, given threats from the federal government and state government, we might need to look at our non-discrimination ordinances for things like private cause of action and damages provisions.

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

Dallas, like virtually all states and cities, cooperates with ICE to turn over convicted felons for deportation as an appropriate conclusion to our justice system process. However, recent changes in federal policies that appear to be using ICE to conduct raids or go after individuals who are living peacefully in the United States go too far and will hurt Dallas families and businesses. The Dallas council has made it clear that Dallas Police should not cooperate with ICE activities that indiscriminately target residents.

### 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. In this election, I have been attacked relentlessly from the far right. They have attacked my sex life as a gay man, whether it be talking about me taking enemas, saying I wear jock straps, and more. Other than the fact that I am gay, their attacks against me are baseless. These far right actors are trying to defeat me and most of the Democrats on council and have used racist rhetoric against some of my non-White colleagues, and sexist ones against my female colleagues. It is sad to see so many of us face challengers aligned with folks like Damien and Natalie LeVeck and Dallas HERO.

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

Chad West

This form was created inside of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas.

