

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 *

Jeenmarks@gmail.com

General Information

Candidate Name *

Dinah Marks

1. District/Office Sought *

Mayor - City of DeSoto

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 personally have not had a personal experience that illustrates an understanding, but do clearly understand the needs from the standpoint of being human. Everyone wants to be treated fairly.

As Mayor, since i have not had any experiences, I would engage with community directly, by meeting with local LGBTQ+ organizations and advocacy groups in DeSoto. to listen to their concerns, challenges, and ideas for city improvements, etc.

Additionally, I would view Non-Discriminatory Policies to ensure city policies protect against discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations. The evaluation of to safety measures to protect against hate crimes. Further, I will work with law enforcement to ensure fair treatment, and safety measures to protect against hate crimes are in place.

Lastly, as Mayor, I would show visible support through proclamations and recognition of LGBTQ+ awareness.

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)?

Yes

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

I presently serve as DeSoto City Council-member, Place 5 where I have been afforded the opportunity to accomplish the following:

Advocated for Green Spaces in all Planned Developments

- Spearheaded the Improved Customer Service Initiative (ICSI) to support small businesses.
- Championed the Black Lives Matter Art in Parks
- Led efforts in the American Rescue Plan Ad Hoc Committee, securing premium pay for essential workers.
- Played a pivotal role in the CARES ACT Ad Hoc Committee, directing \$300,000 to narrow the technology divide for DeSoto ISD students.
- Championed Tiffany Derry, Celebrity Chef – Roots Chicken Shak (train culinary students from DeSoto ISD and award franchise opportunity).
- Championed Proposition C during the 2020 General Election, amending the process for electing the Mayor Pro Tem.
- Currently advocating for stricter ordinance to address absentee landlords.
- Currently advocating for ordinance to require trash cans to be stored out of sight when not in use,

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

My Campaign Commitments are:

Public Safety:

Improving community relationships with law enforcement

Developing a strong police oversight committee

Restoring community aesthetics with properly staffed code compliance and animal control divisions

Accountability and Transparency:

Creating a climate where citizens are comfortable voicing concerns

Building a cohesive working culture for City Council

Economic Growth:

Providing support and resources to existing businesses

Strategically attracting desirable businesses.

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.

Right now I say that it is (3) why?

This would totally be a new venture for DeSoto. Although, I am aware of LGBTQ residents, I have not seen any discriminatory actions on the part of DeSoto; however, DeSoto has always been the "John, the forerunner" in creating new things.

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

The main policy that I would address as Mayor would be to strengthen the ordinance to prohibit housing discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identification.

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 biggest threat I would surmise would be discrimination. Here is my plan to address this issue:

- Offer incentives to developers/landlords/to participate in inclusive housing programs.
- Provide training to landlords and property managers to ensure all are treated fairly
- Create a LGBTQ resource area/center to assist with necessary questions, etc. pertaining to housing.

The follow-up would be through Planning & Zoning to conduct fair housing audits quarterly to again ensure we are treating everyone fair and equal.

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?

Require landlords to have a legitimate reason for rent increases, preventing them to use algorithmic measures.

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. *

8 - DeSoto is pretty safe. Crime rate in our city decrease by 12%.

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

Support - Mental health Crisis

Oppose - No Knock Warrants

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. *

Work with Texas State Legislators to push state level anti discrimination laws .

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? *

No!

Other cities can make sure to promote a friendly city and be inclusive of all.

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? *

The desire to be treat fairly.

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 Mayor I would support updating our zoning to include flood prone areas. As early as last year, there was an area in DeSoto that began to erode because of flooding.
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17. What are your plans to address environmental injustices for marginalized communities * within your city?

When I think of environmental injustices, I think of those who might not be have access to green spaces, clean air, etc. My plan would be to perhaps install some type of mechanism to measure air quality and track pollution. Here in DeSoto, one of the reasons we have two trash pick-ups per week is to help with possible pollution.

Another idea would be to strengthen the ordinance to address mold and lead in rental properties. As you know, here in DeSoto we have approximately 854 residential properties whose owners are out of town and hard to reach. Therefore, a stiffer ordinance to address this need would be most appropriate.
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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?

One of the things I have never seen done in DeSoto is to issue a proclamations and resolutions recognizing Pride Month, Transgender Day of Visibility and perhaps other key dates pertaining to LGBTQ. Therefore, this is something that I would do.

Further, make sure all city communications/social media use inclusive messaging and feature LGBTQ representation.
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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? *

SAME AS ABOVE

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.

Absolutely, they have engaged in government overreach. There is no reason why certain groups are singled out to be harassed, searched, or having a freedom of speech. More often than not, certain groups when stopped by police, they are frisked or cars search.

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

Non Discrimination ordinance to address discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identification.

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

SB4 of course requires law enforcement to work with immigration authorities. However, we have some discretion as to whether or not to engage with ICE, especially when it comes to non violent crimes .

Our goal is to foster a safe and inclusive community; therefore, I would propose to adopt a policy that will prioritize residents regardless of sexual orientation or gender, rather than enforcing immigration 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?

Absolutely not.

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

Dinah Marks

This form was created inside of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas.

