

# 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 \*

resendez.jaime@gmail.com

## General Information

Candidate Name \*

Jaime Resendez

1. District/Office Sought \*

Dallas City Council District 5

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 gained a special understanding of LGBTQ+ issues while serving in the military. During my time of service, the discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy was in effect. I thought the policy was extremely unfair, forcing soldiers that were willing to sacrifice their life for our country to hide their true identity.

While serving on the Dallas ISD Board of Trustees, I sponsored a resolution that designated each school in the district as welcoming and protective environments regardless of immigration status, ethnicity, national origin, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, disability, or socioeconomic status. I decided to not limit the language in the resolution to only address immigration status because I feel that it is important to be as inclusive as possible given the diversity of our community.

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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. I vote regularly and have only voted for Democratic candidates.

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

I was born and raised in Pleasant Grove, the heart of District 5. My parents, like many others in our community worked hard to make a living, but still struggled to make ends meet. Growing up in Southeast Dallas, I saw people get into drugs, gangs, and end up in prison. With no money for college, I enlisted in the U.S. Army before graduating from high school and served for eight years as an engineer, including a year-long tour of duty in Baghdad, Iraq. When I returned from Iraq, I went on to earn degrees with honors from Eastfield Community College and the University of North Texas at Dallas, and then a law degree from The University of Texas School of Law. I know the struggles of the people of District 5, because I lived them, and I know the tremendous potential of our community.

My previous experience as a Dallas ISD Trustee was good preparation for working professionally with constituents and colleagues to make significant changes to address our challenges. I am proud to have led the charge to bring the first talented and gifted school to Pleasant Grove and a new \$30M school building for the students at Nathaniel Hawthorne Elementary School.

Since being elected to the city council in 2019, I have been a strong advocate for equity and opportunity for all. Whether it was by amending the city code to increase access to government for underrepresented groups, advocating for increased internet access in high-need communities before and during the pandemic, riding my bicycle on every single street in the district to better identify infrastructure needs, or ending up in a high-speed chase during a ride-along with the Dallas Police Department while working to address the dangerous street racing situation in our community, my focus has been on improving the quality of life for every resident in our city.

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

My priorities are public safety, infrastructure improvements, and increasing quality housing options. I plan on working to ensure that city government has an equity-centered approach to the allocation of resources in order to make up for the lack of investment in District 5 and other similar communities in Dallas.

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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.

I would rate Dallas’s response to housing affordability a 6. While there has been progress in District 5 with initiatives like the transit-oriented development at the Buckner DART Rail Station, the development of a new community consisting of single-family affordable homes in partnership with Builders of Hope, and two RFPs for potential housing developments on city-owned land, there is still much work to be done citywide. We continue to face significant challenges with rising costs and limited affordable options for working families.

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

Expanding the affordable housing supply by supporting zoning changes that allow for more mixed-use and transit-oriented developments, like the recently approved TOD at the Buckner DART Rail Station, which includes affordable units.

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?

One of the biggest threats to housing security for LGBTQ+ individuals is the disproportionately high rate of homelessness and housing instability, particularly among LGBTQ+ youth and transgender individuals. I would advocate for increased funding and targeted support for housing programs specifically designed for vulnerable populations facing these risks. This includes investing in transitional housing and emergency shelters that are inclusive and tailored to the needs of LGBTQ+ individuals. Additionally, expanding access to affordable housing through mixed-use and transit-oriented developments, along with strategic zoning changes, would help create more stable, affordable housing options for LGBTQ+ individuals. Finally, collaborating with local LGBTQ+ organizations to better understand the unique challenges this community faces will be key to crafting solutions that work.

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 address housing inequality and rising rental prices, we must not only ban algorithmic rent control, but also strengthen tenant protections through anti-discrimination policies. Additionally, investing in supportive housing and homelessness prevention programs is essential to prevent homelessness and provide long-term stability for vulnerable individuals and families.

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 rate Dallas' delivery of public safety services around a 7. While law enforcement continues to play a vital role, the city has made notable strides in addressing the root causes of crime. Through investments in parks, infrastructure improvements, community policing, and mental health services, Dallas is taking a more holistic approach to public safety. The city has also focused on expanding access to job training and affordable housing, which are crucial for reducing crime in high-risk neighborhoods. Over the last several years, these efforts have contributed to a significant reduction in violent crime. However, there is still more work to be done, particularly in further strengthening community relationships with law enforcement and ensuring that prevention programs are accessible to all areas in need.

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

I support investing in mental health crisis response teams as part of public safety policy. Instead of relying solely on law enforcement to handle mental health emergencies, specialized teams of mental health professionals can intervene in situations where individuals are experiencing a mental health crisis. This approach helps prevent unnecessary arrests, reduces the strain on the criminal justice system, and ensures that people in crisis receive the appropriate care and support.

I oppose criminalizing homelessness through policies that penalize individuals for basic survival activities, such as sleeping in public spaces or panhandling. These policies only further marginalize individuals and do not address the root causes of homelessness. Instead, the focus should be on providing affordable housing, social services, and outreach programs to help individuals transition out of homelessness.

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 a former school board member and current city council member, I have had the opportunity to build strong relationships with educators, community leaders, and public safety officials, which would help facilitate collaboration in ensuring LGBTQ+ people feel safe, secure, and respected within our jurisdiction. This background allows me to approach public safety issues from an informed perspective and work with stakeholders who already trust me and understand my commitment to inclusion and equity. I am committed to creating a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment for all residents, and I believe that my past experience and relationships will be key to ensuring that LGBTQ+ people feel respected and secure in our community.

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? \*

Reports in recent years indicate an increase in hate crimes targeting the LGBTQ+ community in Dallas. To address this issue, I would advocate for enhanced training for law enforcement officers on LGBTQ+ issues to ensure they are equipped to handle these situations with respect. Additionally, community engagement would help raise awareness of the detrimental effects of hate crimes and promote inclusivity. Finally, ensuring that victims of hate crimes have access to support services is crucial for their recovery. These steps will help create a safer and more supportive environment for the LGBTQ+ community in Dallas.

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? \*

As a Latino with immigrant parents who grew up in a low-income community, I have a unique understanding of the challenges faced by historically marginalized groups, particularly with regard to public safety. Growing up, I witnessed firsthand the impact of inequities on communities like mine, where access to resources and opportunities was limited, and where individuals often felt disconnected or even distrustful of law enforcement.

For marginalized communities, public safety is not only about law enforcement but also about ensuring equitable access to resources that address the root causes of crime. Having seen how a lack of opportunities and support can negatively impact communities, I am committed to ensuring that public safety policies reflect the needs of historically marginalized groups, prioritizing inclusion and the creation of safe, healthy environments where all individuals, regardless of their background, feel valued and protected.

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.

One specific policy I strongly support to enhance Dallas' climate resilience is the implementation of the city's Comprehensive Environmental and Climate Action Plan, particularly in the area of transportation. By investing in sustainable transportation options such as expanding bike lanes, creating more pedestrian friendly streets, and improving access to public transit, we can reduce our dependence on single occupancy vehicles. This approach not only helps mitigate climate change by lowering emissions but also improves mobility and accessibility for all residents, particularly those in underserved neighborhoods.

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

Addressing environmental injustices in marginalized communities in Dallas is a top priority for me. These communities are often disproportionately impacted by pollution, poor air quality, and limited access to green spaces, all of which contribute to health disparities and social inequities. To address this, I am committed to increasing access to green infrastructure in underserved neighborhoods, which will not only improve air quality but also provide safe places for recreation. In District 5, we are already making significant progress with two new parks in the pipeline that will help eliminate park deserts and provide much-needed green space. Additionally, the nearly \$40 million replacement of the Lake June Rd. bridge over Highway 175 will improve access to the Great Trinity Forest and, eventually, White Rock Lake, creating new opportunities for outdoor activities and connecting residents to nature. These efforts are essential to creating healthier, more resilient neighborhoods and ensuring that all Dallas residents have access to the environmental resources they deserve.

### 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? \*

Drawing from my experience as a former school board trustee, I understand the importance of building strong, collaborative relationships with allies and organizations at every level of government to create meaningful change. I plan to work closely with city officials to implement policies that protect LGBTQ+ individuals, from anti-discrimination measures to affordable housing options for the community. Additionally, I will engage with school board members to ensure that LGBTQ+ students have safe and supportive environments. I also plan to collaborate with state legislators to advocate for stronger state-level protections for LGBTQ+ individuals and ensure that local efforts align with state policies. At the community level, I will partner with LGBTQ+ advocacy groups and local nonprofits to promote resources that address the unique needs of LGBTQ+ residents. By leveraging my existing relationships and building new partnerships, I will work to ensure that the LGBTQ+ community in our city has a unified and powerful voice.

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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, I believe that the State Legislature has engaged in government overreach. A clear example was the legislature’s efforts to restrict local authority on public health measures, such as mask mandates and COVID-19 restrictions. Local governments are often better positioned to understand and respond to the unique challenges of their communities. I’m concerned that the state will continue to impose top-down policies that undermine local decision-making, and we must be prepared to push back to protect our ability to effectively serve our communities.

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

A policy I would support is the creation of an LGBTQ+ advisory board within the city. This board would provide a platform for direct engagement between LGBTQ+ residents and city officials, ensuring that the community’s needs are heard and addressed in policy-making decisions. It would also help ensure that city programs, services, and resources are inclusive and responsive to the unique challenges faced by LGBTQ+ individuals.

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

Given my personal background as the child of formerly undocumented immigrants, I understand the potential harm that can arise when local law enforcement cooperates with ICE. I believe local police departments should prioritize the safety and well-being of all residents, regardless of their immigration status. Cooperation with ICE can instill fear and mistrust within immigrant communities, making individuals hesitant to report crimes or cooperate with law enforcement, which ultimately undermines public safety. I would advocate for policies that limit local law enforcement’s role in immigration enforcement, ensuring that police focus on their primary responsibility of protecting the community while fostering trust and cooperation across all demographics.

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?

I was arrested twice, once when I was 19 and again at 23. In both cases, I was with a group of friends who became involved in an altercation with another group, which led to the police being called. I pled no contest to public intoxication in both instances. The second arrest occurred after I returned from a tour of duty in Iraq, and it played a big part in me getting my life together after realizing that I could easily head down the wrong path.

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

Jaime Resendez

This form was created inside of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas.

Google Forms