

# 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 \*

gay@gaydonnellwillis.com

## General Information

Candidate Name \*

Gay Donnell Willis

1. District/Office Sought \*

Dallas City Council District 13

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 two term council member, and my allyship has been demonstrated across my support and presence at everything from the Don Maison sign topper (I was on the three-signature memo requesting this memorial) to Pride parades and press conferences and the opening of Oak Lawn Place.

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 have served two years as a Dallas City Councilmember representing District 13. Appointments by my predecessors include the Community Development Commission, the 2017 Bond Critical Facilities subcommittee, the Vickery Meadow TIF Board, and separately, the DISD 2020 Bond Safety & Security subcommittee. In addition to volunteer community roles around domestic violence, child abuse and maternal health, neighborhood park liasion and programs for an early childhood PTA, and civic organizations like Junior League of Dallas, Dallas Breakfast Group, Alzheimer's Association, Friends of the Dallas Public Library, and more. At the national level, I serve on the National League of Cities Finance Administration and Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

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

Public safety and infrastructure (streets, alleys, sidewalks, stormwater drainage) are always paramount with Dallas residents. The City has been slow to act on temporary housing options for unsheltered residents—treating the streets and public spaces as waiting rooms as they (maybe) wait for housing. Activating spaces owned by the City or in partnership with nonprofits with existing relationships must move from talk to action before the end of 2025 (and hopefully by Q3!). Given the cascade of fear and uncertainty by the national administration, making sure Dallas' Office of Community Care is as agile and responsive as possible is key, as well as keeping communication channels open with communities most directly affected by rights cancellation attempts.

### 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.

This is arbitrary because there are so many factors, but I'll say 6. Passage of Forward Dallas opens up density in logical areas like DART Stations for Transit Oriented Development, which can bring more units to stabilize market pricing, but also help an individual with reducing their transportation costs. I am particularly excited by the Community Land Trust that TREC is standing up to activate vacant parcels for single family homes and multi-family like townhomes to bring affordable options in categories that have become out-of-reach for most residents.

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

I'd like to see the impact of Forward Dallas on new development in sensible locations like TODs and along arterials and major intersections, but if there are housing proposals brought forth, as a member of the Housing & Homelessness Committee, I'll give careful consideration.

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 opening of Oak Lawn Place is a great example of ways a city can work with a nonprofit to close funding gaps to bring a project like this to life. Supporting those who have ideas and projects like this is one thing a council member, and City, can do. Housing security is under threat to many populations right now with some recent state legislation that has been introduced.

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 have not researched algorithmic rent control but am open to learning more.

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. \*

Since a rating would be arbitrary, I'll say that we do need to hire more police officers, but thoughtfully in a way that does not pull too many officers from patrol to train recruits. We need to listen to law enforcement leadership on this. Dallas' violent crime rate, with just under 3100 officers, has been reduced by almost 50% in five years, which shows that use of technology and the Violent Crime Reduction Plan are working. That said, response times are much higher than average across all categories. I serve on the Public Safety Committee and review the recruitment and retention figures and initiatives each month—Dallas is moving in the right direction.

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

I support raising the floor to 300 from 250 for 2024-25 hiring and oppose the current status of college credits required for hiring (would like to see work experience be counted to a degree).

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. \*

Ensuring that the law is applied equitably and that discrimination in protection or investigation do not occur is something that has to be in place. I am not hearing of anything otherwise so would like to hear from the community if that is not the case.

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? \*

I am not aware of any recent cases, but if there are any, would like them brought to my attention.

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 woman, so I understand.

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 look forward to hearing of any policies that the Parks Trails and Environment Committee bring forth for consideration.

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

Dallas is already doing this with examples like the Floral Farms rezoning case, placement of air quality monitors throughout the city and in implementing other aspects of the CECAP.

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 already do this, but need to hear of any disruptions to be sure I stay current.

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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.

Sadly, there is a continued desire to get involved in matters best left to local jurisdiction.

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

What does Stonewall Democrats feel would do this? I consider this organization as more of an expert than I am, so need to hear some specifics.

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

Immigration enforcement is a federal matter. If requested, DPD must evaluate what resources would be required so as not to threaten local safety our residents expect. DPD is required to enforce the law, but consideration of jurisdictions is critical.

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)

Gay Donnell Willis

This form was created inside of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas.

