

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 *

paul@paulridleyfordallas.com

General Information

Candidate Name *

Paul E. Ridley

1. District/Office Sought *

City Council, D14

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.

Attendance at Stonewall meetings, participation in all Pride Parades since elected, built strong relationships with Stonewall leadership, attended drag show in E. Dallas to demonstrate support for free expression and LGBTQ+ rights.

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, lifelong Democratic party voter

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

Have served 2 terms on City Council, 8 years on Plan Commission, 4 years on Landmark Commission

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

Hiring more police officers to achieve lowest violent crime rates of 10 largest US cities; protecting residential neighborhoods from unwanted and inappropriate development; funding necessary public infrastructure repairs; pursue appropriate policies to reduce car-dependency; supporting city incentives to build more affordable housing; improve walkability; support economic development to increase tax revenue and jobs.

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.

8. I have supported city incentives that have resulted in construction of over 10,000 units of affordable housing in the last 3 years. I have also been a strong supporter of city home repair programs, establishing a senior home repair program to allow seniors to age in place and to preserve naturally occurring affordable housing. More needs to be done however to improve the supply vs. demand balance.

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

I am sponsoring amendment of the Dallas Int'l Residential Code to allow buildings of up to 8 units to be governed by that code instead of the Int'l Building Code which imposes expensive requirements like sprinklers on buildings of over 2 units. This will reduce the cost of housing of more dense infill housing where it is not currently economic to build.

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?

Housing affordability. I have supported funding to address homelessness and incentives for more affordable housing; I have allocated \$250,000 in discretionary funds for legal aid to tenants threatened with eviction.

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?

Federal legislation already bans discrimination in housing. Lawsuits are pending against promoters of algorithmic rent control on antitrust grounds which hopefully will stop this practice. I am not a supporter of rent control because it has always resulted in disinvestment in housing and fewer new units being built. Increasing the supply of for-sale and rental units is the best way to address high rental prices.

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. Dallas' violent crime plan has resulted in significant reductions of violent crime since 2022, including 26% in 2024 alone (8% overall reduction in crime). Dallas is alone among the top 10 cities to have reduced violent crime 3 years in a row. We still need more police officers however to reduce response times and deter crime.

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

I supported increasing the DPD hiring goal from 250 to 300 for this fiscal year at the 2/26/25 council meeting and will support budget changes to fund the increased hiring and equipment costs. It is necessary to increase ranks of DPD. Do not support arbitrary and unrealistic hiring goals unrelated to real policing needs that exceed the city's ability to hire and properly train officers.

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. *

Have worked with DPD officer Megan Sykes as the LGBTQ liaison officer to address public safety concerns in the LGBTQ community and attended a public safety meeting at the Cathedral of Hope. Coordinated with DPD to provide police presence for drag show in E. Dallas in light of protests by anti-LGBTQ parties.

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? *

There have been periodic instances of vandalism of the Legacy of Love monument, though not recently, and occasional harassment of gay men in Oak Lawn. I have asked for beefed up patrolling in the gayborhood to address these issues.

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 same as any resident - to feel safe in public places and in the security of their homes and to be free from attack based upon their freedom of expression.

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 have advocated and will continue to advocate for EV conversion of the city's vehicle fleet, and have introduced budget amendments to fund solarization of city buildings and creation of resiliency shelters with backup generators. I have advocated for continued implementation of CECAP.

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

I supported and voted for Forward Dallas 2.0 which contains policies to address environmental injustice and will consider issues of environmental justice in voting on zoning cases.

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? *

By publicly expressing support for the LGBTQ+ community through statements and actions (see previous answers) and working with other public officials to address issues of concern to the LGBTQ+ community as they arise.

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? *

Duplicate of #18.

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, that is what the Republican majority is all about in proposing anti-LGBTQ+ bills.

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

Increase penalties for hate crimes against LGBTQ+.

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

DPD's interim chief has gone on record in support of DPD operating procedures which prohibit detaining to ask immigration or citizenship status and declining to act as an enforcement arm of ICE. I support this position.

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) *

Paul Ridley

This form was created inside of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas.

