

Stonewall Democrats Questionnaire

NOTE – this should be the document you compile and refine your answers and from which you copy and paste your replies to the online questionnaire.

This questionnaire is for candidates running for City Council seats, please complete questionnaire below. Submit a completed electronic copy by Monday, March 6, 2023, to be considered for endorsement in the 2023 Municipal Elections.

Candidate Name*

Joe Tave

Do you intend to seek the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas endorsement for the 2023 Municipal Elections?*

Yes

No

1. District/Office Sought*

District 3 Councilman

2. Please share any experience that illustrates your understanding of and interest in the needs of the LGBTQ+ community in your District/Role sought.

Your answer

First, this is a nonpartisan race.

THAT SAID –

I have experience and a track record of working with ALL MEMBERS of the community and getting things done. My wife and I live in a welcoming community and have welcomed LGBTQ+ persons into our home and onto my last two bids for public office. We have worked together in our crime watch, rezoning cases, and other community efforts.

3. 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)?*

Your answer

I, Joe Tave, affirm my affiliation and support of Texas Democratic Party policies. I am a registered Democrat.

4. If you earn the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas endorsement, how would you showcase your endorsement? Would you include the endorsement in your campaign media?

Your answer

The Stonewall Democrats endorsement would be prominently shown on all my campaign donor, contribution, and endorsements lists along with your logo when I list the logo of others.

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

Your answer

**Neighborhood association president for over 20 years.
I have run for City Council twice and was in a runoff in the 2021 election with the incumbent.**

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

Your answer

**Bring high paying jobs to our district
Increase home ownership
Bring common sense planning and economic development to our district
NO MORE City funded rental apartments – we have MORE than our fair share**

7. When elected, how will you recruit, retain, and create an inclusive environment for LGBTQ+ staff and allies to the LGBTQ+ community? How would you work to include LGBTQ+ representatives in your board and commission appointments?

Your answer

My appointments to the various boards and commissions will reflect the diversity and skills that the LGBTQ+ residents can bring to these functions. I would call on groups like the Stonewall Democrats, the Resource Center of Dallas, and established community institutions like the Cathedral of Hope to put my staff and me in touch with the LGBTQ+ community leaders and contacts who have experience and insights into how the general and UNIQUE issues we deal with impact your community and WHO would be able to SERVE as a District 3 representative on these boards, commissions, and committees. Allies can and do come from all over and I plan to seek them out and put them to work on achieving our common goals – TOGETHER.

I would also point to the current diversity of my campaign staff that already includes members of the LGBTQ+ community. In most cases, I have come to know people as neighbors, coworkers, volunteers, and found out that they are also part of the LGBTQ+ community – and THAT did not have a negative effect on our relationship at all. I consider myself a trusted ally and will continue to work for justice and fairness for EVERYONE!

8. If elected, what legislative priorities would you push the city to lobby for in Austin?

Your answer

I will continue to support Dallas' status as a Sanctuary City

I will continue to support ALL of our resolutions affirming Dallas as an Open, Welcoming Community for the LGBTQ+ community, and I will continue to be an ally.

9. The Texas State Legislature continues to debate and adopt laws which restrict local control on many issues, including protections for the LGBTQ+ community. How would you see your city respond to these changes?

Your answer

I support STRONG HOME RULE with minimal ability for the State to intervene. An exception would be in the case of natural disasters, for example where State and Federal resources would be needed.

As far as LGBTQ+ matters are concerned, Dallas and Dallas City Hall are considered to be very progressive compared to many other areas in the state of Texas, overall. I will support initiatives and policies that will guarantee that Dallas is a city open to and for ALL!

10. Homelessness has and continues to have a significant impact on the LGBTQ+ community and our neighbors across North Texas. How would you rate our city's current response to homelessness? How would you alter or expand these efforts?

Your answer

POOR at best. Currently City Hall is trying to force TWO facilities in D3 without any Community Engagement. I will make sure that the LGBTQ+ community is represented by a D3 resident and has real input and a real voice.

11. Income inequality continues to grow and impact life in North Texas. How would you rate our city's current response to the needs of low- and middle-income residents, particularly wage growth and affordable housing? How would you alter or expand these efforts?

Your answer

D3 has over 3,500 AFFORDABLE RENTAL UNITS already. They were forced on us by City Hall. We have more than enough rentals. I will make sure that AFFORDABLE HOME OWNERSHIP, open to ALL, INCLUDING the LGBTQ+ community, will be made available! We CANNOT RENT our way out of a housing shortage. Home ownership builds wealth for families OF ALL KINDS!

Dallas has had its thumb on the scale and has made our Southern Sector neighborhoods suffer for decades. Thankfully, Dallas' Southern Sector neighborhoods have been very welcoming to LGBTQ+ individuals and couples – especially MY neighborhood and those around me. As a result, we are stronger, safer, and more stable than in other parts of the city. Because the City kept home values “artificially low” here, the LGBTQ+ homebuyers have been able to invest here and GROW the values of their homes as well as everyone else's. It has been a WIN/WIN for us all.

I think that District has been the role model and set the Gold Standard as far as being an inclusive place to live! I plan to EXPAND that example and make sure that we are a GREAT PLACE TO WORK, and create the new neighborhoods, and high paying JOBS that our Southern Sector needs and deserves. I see the LGBTQ+ as a key partner in this effort!

All candidates will need to answer the following questions.

12. Are you a current member of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas?

Your answer

No.

13. 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?

Your answer

No. My track record with working with causes that have impacted Civil Rights ALSO INCLUDED how they would impact the LGBTQ+ community. I consider myself an ally who can be trusted to support the causes that are important to you. My neighborhood, my campaign staff and volunteers INCLUDE the full range of diversity that makes up Dallas and District 3.

14. I'm seeking an endorsement from the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas for the 2023 Municipal election. (**Joe Tave**)*

Your answer

Joe Tave for Dallas Council -- District 3!