

**Candidate Name: CARL SHERMAN**

**State Office & District Sought: HD 109**



*Please complete the questionnaire below in order to be considered for endorsement by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas. You must send a completed electronic copy to [JoshC@StonewallDemocratsOfDallas.org](mailto:JoshC@StonewallDemocratsOfDallas.org) by Friday, December 20th in order to be guaranteed an in-person interview at the endorsement screenings, held January 4th, 5th, 11th, and 12th.*

### **1. Your background and the LGBTQ community**

**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 strong ally to the LGBTQ community. As a Pastor, I believe we are all created by God and our creator made all of us from one. It is that unity of thought, concern, compassion and understanding that I seek to serve the needs of the LGBTQ community. Support for the LGBTQ is a deeply held moral obligation for me. As a Pastor, I am very troubled when human beings attempt to usurp the authority and love of God. In particular, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas is a vital and important part of the Democratic Party coalition in Dallas County. An endorsement from this organization will provide a significant boost to our campaign and highlight our alignment on many issues important to the party. This is one of the most important endorsements for me personally, and I would be honored to receive your support.**

**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?**

**Yes, I was Democrat born. Democrat bred. And when I die, I will be Democrat dead. My voting record is 100% Democrat.**

### **2. Creating an inclusive community**

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

**I am the proud State Representative for HD-109. I was also one of the only freshmen appointed to the powerful House Appropriations Committee, so my access and continued service on this committee will add much to the North Texas region and our various constituency groups. Beyond that, I am a husband, father, businessman and civic leader, who currently serves as the City Manager of the City of Hutchins, Texas. Previously, I served two-terms as the Mayor of the All-America City of DeSoto, Texas, while concurrently serving as the City Manager of Ferris, Texas. A man of strong religious faith, I also serve as a bi-vocational minister in the role of Senior Pastor for the Church of Christ in Hutchins, Texas. My contributions to municipal**

governance began in 2003, when I chaired a successful \$32 million dollar general obligation bond in the City of DeSoto. I was later elected to the city council in 2006, serving as mayor pro tem in 2008 and 2009. **In May 2010, I was elected as the first African American Mayor of DeSoto, and was re-elected in 2013.**

My tenure as Mayor included a litany of **progressive victories** for southern Dallas County. Under my leadership, **DeSoto became one of the first cities in Texas to provide body cameras for all police officers.** Our leadership team also worked tirelessly to bring quality employment opportunities and business growth to the region, including leading the negotiations to attract the number one Kohl's E-Commerce facility in the United States. I believe in a 'smart growth' philosophy that includes securing funds to ensure that access to quality, affordable housing and safe neighborhoods for every citizen remains at the forefront of economic development decisions. **During my term as Mayor, the city experienced a 40% increase in sales tax revenue and unemployment went from 9.7% to 5%.**

Additionally, I was appointed to the **NTTA Board of Directors** by the Dallas County Commissioners Court on October 4, 2016. I have also had the absolute honor and privilege to be named the first African American in the following positions: president of the DeSoto Rotary Club, board chair of the DeSoto Chamber of Commerce, and board chair of the Best Southwest Chamber of Commerce. In addition, I have been an executive member of the Dallas Regional Mobility Coalition Board and the River of Trade Corridor Coalition. As an entrepreneur and businessman, I previously served as chair and CEO of eTelcharge.com, and earned the AT&T Alex Award for innovation. As a result, the **Dallas Urban League named me as one of the Most Promising Leaders of the 21st Century.**

In all my endeavors, I have benefited from the love and support of Michelle, my lovely wife of 30 years, as well as that of my five children and five grandchildren.

**Once you are elected, what are some of your plans specific to your office's responsibilities?**

**My top priorities are:**

**1. Education**

- A. Student Debt - tuition cost**
- B. Sustaining the commitments of HB3**
- C. Retired teachers- pay increase to keep up with inflation.**

**2. Livable Wages & Benefits**

- A. Equal pay for women**
- B. Family leave pay**
- C. Increase the minimum wage**

**3. Criminal Justice Reform**

- A. Sentencing disparities**
- B. Technical Revocation**
- C. Prison reform (body cameras, A/C units and livable conditions, decriminalize small amounts of marijuana)**

**What are your plans to support or participate in a coordinated campaign in the general election in Dallas County?**

**I will absolutely participate in a coordinated campaign because Democratic turnout in Dallas County is the key to a county-wide sweep and a chance to score a state-wide victory. DeSoto, Cedar Hill, Lancaster and south Oak Cliff has one of the highest turnouts for Democrat votes in the entire State of Texas and I will work tirelessly to make sure District 109 understands how important it is to turnout, and to push our turnout numbers to unprecedented levels.**

Will you use the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas endorsement in or on:

your website

your campaign literature and mailers

your social media assets (Twitter, Facebook, etc.)

your campaign advertisements

other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

When elected, how will you recruit, retain, and create a friendly environment for LGBTQ and LGBTQ-friendly staff?

First, I expect all of my staff to be respectful of the LGBTQ community. I will maintain an office of openness and transparency, with an expectation that all people are welcomed. No exceptions! Genuine, one-on-one relationships with individuals are the key to creating a network of potential LGBTQ staff. I welcome brilliant minds across the party to join my team because I truly believe that ALL OF US is smarter than any one of us.

Would you be willing to appoint a liaison to meet with the LGBTQ community on an ongoing basis? If not, why? If so, how would you go about seeking such a liaison?

Yes, and this liaison will have a seat at the table on all issues of critical importance. I have strong relationships with members of Stonewall Democrats and rely on their opinions and feedback often. I consider your President Vance to be one of the most critical voices in the Democrat Party and I know if I call him for advice, he will give me an honest, unfiltered opinion.

Will you be willing to lead or support efforts to develop an LGBTQ Task Force or Commission at the state level, similar to the structures and missions developed at the city level in Dallas, Houston, and Austin? How would you go about doing so?

Yes, and I proudly support my colleagues Rep. Julie Johnson and Rep. Jessica Gonzalez in their trailblazing efforts to create the first LGBTQ caucus. In addition to giving the LGBTQ community a voice, I believe that such a task force will also signal to the business community that the State of Texas takes issues of equality seriously. It will also provide a strong, on-going counter-narrative to the ultra-conservatives who push ridiculous legislation like that bathroom bill.

### 3. Current Events

How would you lead or support state legislation and/or constitutional amendments pertaining to:

- a) LGBTQ Couples adopting and providing foster care?

Our foster care system is riddled with mismanagement and our children are suffering. Why would we deny any family who is willing to provide a safe home to a child? We need to open doors that make it easier, not harder, for LGBTQ families to adopt.

- b) Supporting the repeal of the sodomy law that was ruled unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court?

The sodomy law at issue in Lawrence v. Texas was government overreach at its absolute worst. I support the repeal of the law because it is unenforceable, and because it's another embarrassing stain in our long historical tapestry of defiance to decisions adjudicated by the Supreme Court.

c) Supporting safe schools for LGBTQ students?

**I support, particularly with respect to strengthening protections against bullying.**

d) Supporting the repeal of the Texas Marriage/Civil Union Amendment?

**Marriage equality is the supreme law of the land and Texas law should reflect the reality of the Supreme Court's ruling in *Obergefell*.**

**How would you address the recent trend of state governments adding medically unnecessary procedures to the course of treatments pertaining to women's health (e.g. the requirement to have a witnessed sonogram prior to the legal termination of a pregnancy)?**

**Any medically unnecessary procedures are absurd. I support a woman's right to control her own body and this right is the settled law of the land. The gall of the overwhelmingly male Republican majority in Austin and throughout our Nation is arrogant at its best, condescending at its worst and contrary to our constitutional democracy either way. I will fight to protect this right and to eliminate unjust and unnecessary restrictions.**

**How would you lead or support efforts to provide better funding for health care and better health care options for all Texas residents? Would you support an ACA Medicaid expansion in Texas?**

**Absolutely, as stated above, this is an item of critical importance to me. I am proud to support legislation to expand Medicaid in Texas. Those tax dollars belong to Texans and we should not leave that money on the table because it's associated with President Obama. In Dallas County alone, we forfeit nearly \$580 million per year because Republicans in Austin refuse to accept Medicaid expansion funds that belong to Texas taxpayers. The political games in Austin must end because hardworking Texans are suffering – and we deserve better.**

**How would you lead or support legislation comparable to the proposed federal Equality Act providing employment and residence non-discrimination protections for LGBTQ citizens by the Texas State Legislature?**

**I support this legislation. Discrimination based on the basis of sexual identity is wrong and the State of Texas must do everything in its power to prevent this from happening. Yesterday, it was "those" people, fill in the blank. Those people represent any group of people who are considered unacceptable to the cultural or social legislative elites of the times, as well as people who are deemed politically dispensable by officials who wish to use government to sanction discrimination. Today, it is the LGBTQ community. Tomorrow, it could be any of us. I will stand against discrimination in all forms.**

**What specific ideas do you have and/or what current legislation would you support to improve our state economy and address the income inequality and growing poverty rate in Texas?**

- 1. Accept all the benefits in the ACA, including expansion of Medicaid.**
- 2. Invest in quality public school education and other proven programs that lift families out of poverty.**
- 3. Limit college student loan debt for families without means, which means we should also expand our grant programs.**

**4. Fight for expanded paid family leave because this is an economic issue that every Texan deserves.**

**How would you handle a situation in which you or a subordinate felt the need to not fulfill all the lawful work duties of the office due to “deeply held religious beliefs”?**

**I am a man of strong religious faith, and I presently serve as a bi-vocational minister in the role of Senior Pastor for the Church of Christ in Hutchins, Texas. That said, I believe in human rights and I hold an egalitarian view of life in general. No one should use any authority given to them to diminish anyone else’s freedom. The rule of law is fundamental to everything that America stands for. I will not allow subordinates to disrespect the rule of law and I will push back against those in power who use their positions to advocate discrimination.**

**If applicable to your office, how would you lead or support legislation restoring previous funding for HIV prevention in Texas?**

**We have made tremendous progress in the last two decades with HIV prevention in Texas. We cannot take steps backward. I will support restoration.**

**If applicable to your office, how would you lead or support legislation addressing discrimination amongst LGBTQ+ youth and LGBTQ+ families looking to adopt across statewide foster care organizations?**

**As mentioned above, our foster care system is in a crisis. It is absolutely unconscionable that we would deny an eligible family a chance to raise our most vulnerable children because of discrimination. I would support legislation addressing this unthinkable discrimination.**

**If applicable to your office, how would you lead or support legislation addressing reparative/conversion therapy in Texas?**

**I would support a ban on conversion therapy.**

**Would you require sexual harassment training for yourself and your staff? Would you lead or support legislation to require mandatory sexual harassment and Equal Employment Opportunity training similar to the resolution passed in the U.S. Senate that requires Senators, staff, and interns to complete that training each session and submit certification to be published online that their offices' fulfilled the requirements?**

**Yes, I absolutely support sexual harassment training for all state officials and staff.**

**If applicable to your office, what are your ideas for immigration enforcement reform?**

**Immigration enforcement is largely the responsibility of the federal government. That said, we need immigration reform that focuses on keeping families together and living up to our ideals as Americans. We are the melting pot of the world. We need to not only get undocumented immigrants out of the shadows by offering legal protection for stepping forward, but we also need to reform our legal immigration system so that it is fair and equitable for all nations.**

**If applicable to your office, what are your ideas to respond to evidence of climate change?**

**We need to invest in clean energy and respect scientific evidence as real and necessary to protect our future. It is selfish and unfair to future generations for us to continue to ignore the effects of climate change. I will advocate for clean energy alternatives. I will also advocate for the massive reforms to our current energy policies so we know we are leaving a future for our grandchildren that is healthy and inhabitable.**

**If applicable to your office, how would you address voter suppression in Texas and work to expand access to voting by eligible voters?**

**The State of Texas must invest in voter education programs. We must eliminate ridiculous barriers to voting like voter ID laws that do nothing to improve voting in Texas, and that amount to a political motivated poll tax. I will also support restoration of voting privileges for Texans who have served their time and paid their debts to society. We also need to focus heavily on the census and making sure that every Texas is counted.**

**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.**

**In the 86th Legislative session, a LGBTQ Caucus was formed in the House. Many allies across the state joined, though not many. If applicable to your office and you are an incumbent, were you a part of the caucus? Why/why not? If elected, would you seek to be a member of the caucus? Why/why not?**

**I would absolutely be open to joining the caucus if such membership is acceptable to current members.**

I, Carl Sherman Sr., am seeking an endorsement from the Stonewall Democrats of Dallas for the 2020 elections (specific office sought is indicated above).

Signed *Carl Sherman Sr.* Date January 17, 2020