



**VOTER GUIDE
McKINNEY CITY COUNCIL
Spring, 2017**

**McKINNEY
CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL
MAY 9, 2017**

MAYOR

**GEORGE FULLER
DANNY BISHOP
RANDY POGUE**

PLACE 1

**La'SHADION SHEMWELL
JOHNNY MOORE
DUSTTIN PEARSON**

PLACE 3

**GAVIN NICHOLSON
SHEILA JOHNSON
SCOTT ELLIOTT
MARGARET HARSCH
JEREMIAH J. HAMMER**

AT LARGE

**CHARLIE PHILIPS
KEVIN M. SMALLWOOD
THOMAS "TJ" REILLY
MICHAEL JONES
DEREK V. BAKER**

GALA North Texas has prepared information for Candidate Forums by obtaining information from candidate websites, Facebook campaign and personal pages, press releases and news articles. GALA North Texas has used its best effort to ensure the accuracy of all information. For information about this document or to report an error or request a change, contact dawna@galanorthtexas.org.

MAYOR

GEORGE FULLER



Phone: 214-725-0740

Email: georgefuller2@yahoo.com

Website: www.fullerformayor.com

Facebook: Fuller for Mayor

Education: Business Management; Norwich University

Occupation: George C. Fuller Contracting Company - Developer, Home and Commercial Builder

Highlights of civic involvement:

Co-founder and board member of the Love Life Foundation, a non-profit organization benefiting children both locally and beyond

Meals On Wheels, Board of Trustees

McKinney Community Development Corporation

McKinney Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors

Stonebridge Commercial Association, President

McKinney "Builder of the Year", multiple years

Parade of Homes "People's Choice Award", two-time winner

Owner of the Guitar Sanctuary and performance Academy and the Sanctuary Music and Events Center

Platform:

Leadership

Broaden Commercial and Retail Development While Preserving McKinney's Uniqueness

Balanced Tax Base / Reduce Residential Burden

Improve Partnership with Historic Downtown Businesses

Develop McKinney National Airport Strategies

Attract Community Enhancement Opportunities

Develop Cultural Community Events

Maintain McKinney's Excellence

GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

What would you, as a City Council Member, do to educate yourself about the diverse community you serve, including the LGBT community? Do you consider it a priority to ensure that city employees receive diversity training which includes information regarding the LGBT community?

My sister is gay and was a resident here for many years. I have been introduced to much of the community, though I certainly welcome further education. As I have stated publicly, I very purposely leave absent any party affiliation on my website, Facebook, signage, ads, etc. I am running for office that serves ALL residents of ALL walks of life. I intend to serve each resident equally.

Since the Supreme Court ruled in favor of marriage equality, there has been a wave of proposals, at every level of government, to pass laws which allow businesses to refuse service to the LGBT community. What would you do to ensure that LGBT constituents are treated equally by businesses in our city?

The thought of discrimination of any person is appalling to me. I would not support a city ordinance that moved us away from being an inclusive community.

The so-called "bathroom bill," known as Texas SB6, says that the restrooms and changing facilities in public spaces — public schools and government buildings, for example — should be restricted to people of the same "biological sex." The bill defines biological sex as the sex listed on one's birth certificate. The bill would overrule any local transgender-friendly bathroom ordinances, like ones passed in Dallas and Austin. Please discuss your opposition or support of this legislation.

I believe the bill is providing a perceived solution for a problem that does not exist. I am not aware of any complaint or police involved incident as a result of transgender bathroom use. Why do we now have legislation that so starkly divides our community?

Currently there is no state or federal law that protects LGBT individuals in regards to employment. How can you assure City hiring, firing and promotions will be conducted without regard to sexual orientation and gender identity?

I believe there are currently in place discrimination laws that protect against any walk of life being persecuted in the workforce outside failing to do their job.

Why should members of the LGBT community support your candidacy?

I would want your support because you believe I am the better leader to move our community forward. I am a fiscally conservative and socially compassionate man. I encourage you to vet me and if you do, I am confident you will support me.

MAYOR

DANNY BISHOP



Phone: 214-854-2019
Email: bishopformckinney@gmail.com
Website: ---
Facebook: Bishop for Mayor

Education: North Lake Community College

Occupation: Bus Driver

Highlights of civic involvement:

Multi-Ethnic Heritage Foundation Cultural Philanthropy Award for public service work with several Native American Non Profit Organizations
Dallas Inter-tribal Center of Texas – Volunteer
Texas Parks and Wildlife – Volunteer
Southern Methodist University - Adjunct Teacher
Dallas American Indian Arts Festival – Volunteer
American Indian Aids Center - Volunteer
Chestnut Community Baptist Church - Member
Coach junior cycling team
Sierra Club Member
Work with several Dallas and Texas based grass roots film productions
30 years in the Texas Film Production Community
Supplied video and film production for many environmental and social groups in Texas
Assisted my wife and daughter on several Non Profit North Texas Asian community events

Platform:

Along with tax relief reform, I will work to promote regulations on HOA collections and attorney fees to make it difficult for HOAs to foreclose on homeowners in our community. Work on funding our under funded police and fire departments. Budget cuts in other areas of city government may be needed to accomplish this. Work diligently with city planning and our states highway departments to secure efficient and safer roads in our communities.

GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

What would you, as a City Council Member, do to educate yourself about the diverse community you serve, including the LGBT community? Do you consider it a priority to ensure that city employees receive diversity training which includes information regarding the LGBT community?

Our communities are becoming more diverse and more open. I have worked with so many different cultural groups in my life. It was not until the mid eighties that I saw a more open gay community in our city. In fact around 97 I worked on several films that had a LGBT theme one of them was Boys Don't Cry. Even then I had a hard time finding crew here in North Texas to work on this film project. I know of the hardships faced by the LGBT community but we as a community can meet these challenges and make McKinney home for everyone.

Since the Supreme Court ruled in favor of marriage equality, there has been a wave of proposals, at every level of government, to pass laws which allow businesses to refuse service to the LGBT community. What would you do to ensure that LGBT constituents are treated equally by businesses in our city?

That is know different to the discrimination that so many people have faced in this country. This is wrong. I will work to make sure McKinney will not discriminate service to anyone.

The so-called "bathroom bill," known as Texas SB6, says that the restrooms and changing facilities in public spaces — public schools and government buildings, for example — should be restricted to people of the same "biological sex." The bill defines biological sex as the sex listed on one's birth certificate. The bill would overrule any local transgender-friendly bathroom ordinances, like ones passed in Dallas and Austin. Please discuss your opposition or support of this legislation.

This bill has caused our school systems to loose much needed funding. I wished that communities could see this is a moral issue. But it has gone beyond that. I hope the LGBT community knows that it can stand together and fight all legislation. City government however must act on the laws passed by the state. I do say this do not give up.

Currently there is no state or federal law that protects LGBT individuals in regards to employment. How can you assure City hiring, firing and promotions will be conducted without regard to sexual orientation and gender identity?

As mayor I will fight for all the rights of all the community including the LGBT.

Why should members of the LGBT community support your candidacy?

Because I am the most diverse candidate in this running. I have been working within the LGBT community in the entertainment industry since the mid 90's. You face difficult challenges and as mayor of McKinney I will keep our government open to hear any concerns your community faces.

MAYOR

RANDY POGUE



Phone: -
Email: info@randyformayor.com
Website: www.randyfrmayor.com
Facebook: Randy Pogue for Mayor

Education: Civil Engineering, Texas A&M University

Occupation: Previous President/Owner of Pogue Engineering & Development Inc. which was sold to Westwood Professional Services in 2015. He is now employed by Westwood Multi-Disciplined Surveying & Engineering as the DFW Commercial Market Leader.

Highlights of civic involvement:

McKinney Planning & Zoning Commission
McKinney Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors
McKinney's Texas A&M Club Board
Pogue Construction Advisory Board
McKinney Chamber of Commerce Business Development Committee
McKinney Christian Academy Strategic Planning Committee
McKinney Education Foundation Board of Trustees
McKinney Christian Academy Board of Trustees
At-Large representative to McKinney's City Council - 2013

Platform:

Tax Relief to Hard Working Families
Bring More Jobs to McKinney
Foster a Customer-Friendly Environment at City Hall
Planning for Our Growing Community
Ensuring Proper Mobility for Our Booming City
Preserve and Enhance Our Quality of Life
Economic Development
Strategically plan for the future growth of McKinney
Enhance the City of McKinney's reputation in the business community
Transportation – including FM 546 replacement, Virginia Parkway, SH5 construction, Laud Howell Parkway...
Preserve and enhance McKinney's nationally recognized quality of life

GALA did not receive a response to its Candidate Questionnaire from Randy Pogue.

PLACE 1

JOHNNY MOORE



Phone: (469) 450-2242

Email: jaymoore12@hotmail.com

Website: -

Facebook: Moore for District 1 in McKinney, Texas

Education: Bachelor of Science-Criminal Justice Administration
Masters Degree in Education – Counseling & Psychology, University of North Texas

Occupation: High School Counselor

Highlights of civic involvement:

CREST award (Counselors Reinforcing Excellence in Texas) 2013-2014

CREST award (Counselors Reinforcing Excellence in Texas) 2014-2015

LONE STAR BRONZE AWARD 2015-2016

Superintendent's Award of Commendation 2015

Platform:

I'm running for this particular office because of the lack of equality/equity and the lack of trust from the people with city council. McKinney evolved in a more culture/gender/religion diversity and so should the city' representatives. McKinney has a unique lifestyle and every McKinney citizens should experience what McKinney has to offer.

My three proposals are as follows:

- 1) Students graduate from MISD and enroll in CCCC will receive 15 credit (3 semesters) paid.
- 2) McKinney elderly will have one co-pay paid by the city
- 3) All small businesses (7 employees or less) will have two years of tax breaks in a four years timeline. The comprehensive annual financial report (2015) shows an increased in property taxes and sales taxes revenues. Also charges for services has increased by almost \$4 Million. We can allocate money from Governmental Activities to pay for two of my three proposals.

GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONAIRE

What would you, as a City Council Member, do to educate yourself about the diverse community you serve, including the LGBT community? Do you consider it a priority to ensure that city employees receive diversity training which includes information regarding the LGBT community?

As a school counselor in DISD at Emmett J. Conrad high school, our student population is about 1,300. And within our student population, approximately 90% are refugees from 51 different countries. Needless to say, everyday is a learning curve for both staff and students. As far as LGBT, I have an organization (at school) call Man to Man/Diamond. And we meet every month. Man to Man and Diamond students are mentors for students. The organization consist of both Gays and Straight. Any person who works in a public sector career should and will be trained on diversity culture, lifestyle, gender, religion, and organizational function.

Since the Supreme Court ruled in favor of marriage equality, there has been a wave of proposals, at every level of government, to pass laws which allow businesses to refuse service to the LGBT community. What would you do to ensure that LGBT constituents are treated equally by businesses in our city?

I have constantly working to have McKinney to increase our equality/equity. And I will do everything under the city by-laws to regulate equality for all. Unfortunately, the Civil rights Act of 1964 did not include LGBT. The state of Texas still do not have a state-wide non-discrimination law. And that will make it difficult to fine (local law) those businesses are discriminating LGBT.

The so-called "bathroom bill," known as Texas SB6, says that the restrooms and changing facilities in public spaces — public schools and government buildings, for example — should be restricted to people of the same "biological sex." The bill defines biological sex as the sex listed on one's birth certificate. The bill would overrule any local transgender-friendly bathroom ordinances, like ones passed in Dallas and Austin. Please discuss your opposition or support of this legislation.

Texas SB6 is ridiculous. Does it truly matter what bathroom you are comfortable with? No. My understanding is that the reasoning for the bill is because of the safety-keeping sexual predators out of bathrooms. Should I continue...

Currently there is no state or federal law that protects LGBT individuals in regards to employment. How can you assure City hiring, firing and promotions will be conducted without regard to sexual orientation and gender identity?

Again, I will continue to hire and promote, in my mind, the best person for the job (public sector). I know this is cleshay, but please trust me in working and hiring the best without prejudice.

Why should members of the LGBT community support your candidacy?

I believe in fairness, equal opportunity, and transparent government. I've worked closely with the San Diego community (hillcrest) and with Dr. Danny Scarborough (SDSU) professor in the fight against HIV/AIDS. I will continue to work for equality/equity for all including LGBT community.

PLACE 1

DUSTTIN PEARSON



Phone: (469) 226-7061

Email: DP4McKinney@gmail.com

Website: -

Facebook: Dustin Pearson for McKinney

Education: Bachelor of Arts - Texas Tech University; Masters of Health Administration Informatics - University of Maryland

Occupation: Healthcare IT Project Manager

Highlights of civic involvement:

Platform:

Leveling the tax base - The balance of the tax base is McKinney's most significant challenge as it negatively impacts every house hold in McKinney. Currently residential property taxes account for 80% of city revenue while corporations only account for 20%. My plan to address the property tax issue includes the following: - Addressing inefficiencies that complicate McKinney EDC's efforts in attracting businesses to McKinney - Ensuring McKinney EDC experiences appropriate support in efforts to do their best work - Utilize tax incentives available to promote McKinney as a destination for corporations - Pursue urgent health care vendors, pharmacies, physicians, dentists and other healthcare providers in efforts of promoting easier access to health care for citizens on the east side of highway 75. This will not only assist in leveling the tax base but will provide easier access to health care and more employment opportunities within the area.

Promote the pursuit of a grocery vendor to build a location along highway 5.

Paying for growth of the corporate tax base will include contractual expiring tax incentives to build in McKinney.

Downtown McKinney Parking - The lack of adequate parking within the downtown area is cause for concern for many businesses downtown. Since downtown is a premier attraction spot for visitors, potential businesses, potential residents, and serves as one of the highest contributors to the corporate tax base, it is important that the economy of downtown is vibrant and flourishing. Without adequate parking to accommodate customers, visitors, etc. the sustainability of the downtown economy is concerning. My plan to address parking issues in the downtown area include: - Pursuit of the construction of a multi level parking garage that is located in a citizen preferred area and mimics the designs of the beautiful historical buildings within the downtown area. - I am in favor of the bottom level of the parking garage be utilized as office or retail space and the height of the garage to mimic that of the tallest surrounding building. It is important to consider the tax base when building the parking garage and providing retail and office space in addition to parking does just that. - I am also in support of the actions that the parking committee have implemented such as the use of private parking lots during designated hours and the use of remote lots with access to cart transportation. The City of McKinney has previously budgeted for costs associated with building a downtown parking garage.

DUSTTIN PEARSON

Infrastructure/Public Safety - Infrastructure issues pose a safety concern as some roads are too narrow to allow police, fire, EMT to drive down when cars are parked on the side of the road. Furthermore, some areas of the city lack adequate lighting to deter criminal activity as well as secure sidewalks for citizens to walk down without being in the road and creating a safety concern. My plan to address the issues includes:

Implement fiscally responsible plans to address infrastructure needs of city

- Ensure purposeful planning for improvements throughout city

- Avoid infringement upon private property

- Promote the placement of additional lighting options within neighborhoods in efforts to deter criminal activity

- Promote the planning and implementation of sidewalks throughout the city

- Implement a plan to install adequate signage to prevent congested neighborhood street parking which could delay emergency vehicles access to citizens

Budgets exist for infrastructure repair and builds. It is necessary to utilize these budgets in the most fiscally conservative and efficient method possible through adequate planning and risk management.

GALA did not receive a response to its Candidate Questionnaire from Dusttin Pearson.

PLACE 3

GAVIN NICHOLSON



Phone: (469) 712-4583

Email: General@GavinRNicholson.com

Website: www.gavinrnicholson.com

Facebook: -

Education: McKinney Boyd High School

Occupation: Student – Studying Computer Science at Collin College

Highlights of civic involvement:

Platform: -

District 3 - Keep District 3 a family friendly district. Work to encourage more homes to be built that are both higher (\$500+) and lower (\$175+) in price range. Growth needs to be more sustained and not just a growth bubble waiting to pop.

Drugs - As a youth who graduated from a local high school, I know first hand how bad McKinney's drug problem really is. As a community, we need to address this issue or it will be our downfall. More and more kids are taking prescription drugs like candy and it needs to stop.

Public Transportation - Continue to work with agencies to try and get a mass public transportation system in McKinney. It is unacceptable that senior citizens and young adults don't have access to transportations compared to other city neighbors. Start/continue talks with DART and other public transit services.

Industry - Help move forward with the MEDC and continue to try and get more Aerospace/ aviation, Clean manufacturing, Corporate headquarters/ corporate office, Healthcare & medical device manufacturing, High Tech industries as well as retail stores and entertainment complexes into McKinney by continuing to offer more tax incentives and reliefs for the incoming businesses.

Public Service Relations - Help to keep improving community relations in McKinney with local Police and Fire officials. Introduce days where students and residents can talk with Police and Fire officials to see what their job is like, and what residents can do to support them. Our community needs to keep building bridges, not creating walls.

Airport - The Airport is a goldmine waiting to happen. While I'm on council, I will do anything and everything I can to make a fiscally responsible airport possible. With the help of the airport, it could take some tax burden off of our residents.

Energy - Convert McKinney into a Green Energy powerhouse. Fund more projects like the rooftop project at McKinney Boyd, encourage all High schools and businesses to do the same. This would allow McKinney in the long run to be more reliant on renewable energy and allow home owners lower prices in the long run.

Parks and Rec - McKinney needs to keep its "Unique by Nature" slogan intact. I want to make sure that our parks and other recreational facilities are meeting the standards of everyone. I also want to keep our city looking great by encouraging everyone to go out to our local parks and keeping McKinney greener than our neighboring cities.

Education - Work with MISD and continue a partnership that would allow benefit to both the citizens and our children. There needs to be more contact between the School District and the Government to communicate more effectively about where our future infrastructure needs to be built.

GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONAIRRE

What would you, as a City Council Member, do to educate yourself about the diverse community you serve, including the LGBT community? Do you consider it a priority to ensure that city employees receive diversity training which includes information regarding the LGBT community?

I would like to continue doing what I'm currently doing which is meeting with people and listening to what their concerns are. I think it is a huge priority to make sure that city employees receive diversity training.

Since the Supreme Court ruled in favor of marriage equality, there has been a wave of proposals, at every level of government, to pass laws which allow businesses to refuse service to the LGBT community. What would you do to ensure that LGBT constituents are treated equally by businesses in our city?

I would encourage other council members, including myself, to make a provision that guarantees rights to the LGBT community as McKinney is one of the few cities in Texas that refuses to do so.

The so-called "bathroom bill," known as Texas SB6, says that the restrooms and changing facilities in public spaces — public schools and government buildings, for example — should be restricted to people of the same "biological sex." The bill defines biological sex as the sex listed on one's birth certificate. The bill would overrule any local transgender-friendly bathroom ordinances, like ones passed in Dallas and Austin. Please discuss your opposition or support of this legislation.

I oppose this legislation severely. It violates basic human rights and even the constitution. Transgender individuals should be able to use the bathroom of their choice.

Currently there is no state or federal law that protects LGBT individuals in regards to employment. How can you assure City hiring, firing and promotions will be conducted without regard to sexual orientation and gender identity?

I would like to introduce a piece of "legislation" if you will, that would screen all those who hire and make sure they are comfortable and tolerant around the LGBTQ+ community.

Why should members of the LGBT community support your candidacy?

I am someone who has the support of many youth LGBT members as well as I am a progressive. I believe that in a state that is primarily conservative, we need a candidate who will stand up to bigotry and hate and I am that candidate.

PLACE 1

La'SHADION SHEMWELL



Phone: -

Email: -

Website: www.shemwellfordistrict1.com

Facebook: La'Shadion Shemwell for City Council

Education: -

Occupation: -

Highlights of civic involvement:

Platform:

Transportation - An advocate for expanding the city's public transportation to increase access to jobs and attract new residents.

Infrastructure - Preparing for the future of McKinney's growth by supporting street improvements.

Education - Promoting entrepreneurship and quality education for young people in the district.

GALA did not receive a response to its Candidate Questionnaire from La'Shadion Shemwell.

PLACE 3

MARGARET HARSCH



Phone: -

Email: margaret4mckinney@gmail.com

Website: -

Facebook: Margaret Harsch for McKinney City Council

Education: Bachelor's degree in History and Government from the University of Texas; Master's degree in Educational Administration from Texas A&M Commerce

Occupation: Manager, Electronic Forms Solutions, a software company that specializes in services for the non-profits; Previously Operations Director for the McKinney Education Foundation

Highlights of civic involvement:

Kiwanis Club of McKinney, Treasurer

Boy Scouts (with her sons)

Previously involved in Parent Teacher Organizations including PTO President for Caldwell Elementary School

Platform:

INDEPENDENT - McKinney is growing and changing, and that's a good thing as long as we all have a part in decision making. It's important for residents to have an independent voice on the council that is not tied to any business interest. We can't have good government when conflicts of interest make it necessary for council members to recuse themselves from votes. We can't have real representation when decisions are influenced by special interests instead of the needs of citizens. I have no business ties to the city. I want to bring objectivity and clear vision to decisions to benefit District 3.

SMART ON GROWTH - Any kind of growth is not necessarily smart growth. North Texas is one of the fastest growing economies in the nation, and McKinney has a strong reputation as a unique destination to do business, raise a family, and enjoy premier leisure, dining and retail. In this environment, it is critical that we maintain a balance between the "bottom line" on growth and the intangible things that make McKinney unique. Growth is about wisdom and shared decision making as much as it is about numbers and expanding our tax base. I will stand up for smart growth, so that we take advantage of the vibrant North Texas economy without losing sight of the quality of life we all enjoy in McKinney.

PROTECTING OUR HISTORY - The Historic McKinney Square is the jewel in the crown of our city, and it is at the heart of District 3. It exists not just for Historic District residents. It is truly a destination for all of McKinney and beyond. We need to continue planning for business, retail, dining, parking and other amenities in the vicinity of the square. But we must do so in a way that serves three key imperatives: 1) we must make the McKinney Square welcoming and convenient for everyone who visits from throughout the city and beyond; 2) we must preserve the unique historic feel of the area or it will lose its appeal; 3) we must manage development in the area in a way that respects the needs of residents who live in the Historic District. I have a deep appreciation of the Historic District and I am dedicated to its preservation, even as we grow. I will listen to all stakeholders and work for development in the area that makes sense.

GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

What would you, as a City Council Member, do to educate yourself about the diverse community you serve, including the LGBT community? Do you consider it a priority to ensure that city employees receive diversity training which includes information regarding the LGBT community?

I am (and will continue) visiting with different groups as well as individuals in the community. I believe that city employees need diversity training across the board. The incredible growth in the community means that our demographics are changing. Though McKinney seems to be a predominately white, conservative community, the city has been changing for the better by becoming more diverse and more connected, and I want to help ensure that no groups feel disenfranchised or unaccepted.

Since the Supreme Court ruled in favor of marriage equality, there has been a wave of proposals, at every level of government, to pass laws which allow businesses to refuse service to the LGBT community. What would you do to ensure that LGBT constituents are treated equally by businesses in our city?

I would back a city ordinance prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity however I feel that with the current makeup of the McKinney City council such an ordinance would not pass. I would encourage my fellow council members to support an ordinance but it will require a vocal group of community members to convince enough council members to pass such a rule.

The so-called "bathroom bill," known as Texas SB6, says that the restrooms and changing facilities in public spaces — public schools and government buildings, for example — should be restricted to people of the same "biological sex." The bill defines biological sex as the sex listed on one's birth certificate. The bill would overrule any local transgender-friendly bathroom ordinances, like ones passed in Dallas and Austin. Please discuss your opposition or support of this legislation.

The "bathroom bill" is merely a way for conservative officials to mask their opposition to change and acceptance. Texas SB6 horrifically generalizes transgenders as criminals, labeling them as violent and confused instead of human. It is immoral to label and punish an entire group of people based on the fears that some may abuse laws that try and protect them. Allowing people to use the bathroom of their choice rather than the bathroom of their birth certificate will invite no more crime than any other law we have in place; we cannot allow fear to prevent us from moving forward with acceptance.

Currently there is no state or federal law that protects LGBT individuals in regards to employment. How can you assure City hiring, firing and promotions will be conducted without regard to sexual orientation and gender identity?

The only control over hiring that the council maintains is over the City Manager, City attorney and municipal court judge. I firmly believe that McKinney and all cities should be supportive of all of their citizens, and if I ever felt that one of these hires was abusing their power to discriminate based on race, ethnicity, religious beliefs, and sexual orientation and gender identity, I would support the reprimand and continued monitoring of their actions within the scope of their job.

Why should members of the LGBT community support your candidacy?

To me, more important than winning this election is knowing that the citizens of McKinney elect the candidate they trust and who will be a genuine representative for them, no matter who the citizen is or how loud their voice is. I intend to be a strong leader for our city. I am free from conflict of interest and will be able to vote on every issue with the current community and the future of the city in mind. I will be smart on growth. McKinney is growing rapidly, and it is imperative that as we grow economically and in size, we also grow in representation, diversity, and equality. One of my favorite things about McKinney is its slogan, "Unique by Nature." The nature of our city is more than just our beautiful landscape. It is our population, every individual person who makes up our town. I believe that if we want to continue to call ourselves "unique," we must strive towards becoming a community where people of all cultures, ethnicities, beliefs, gender identities, and sexual orientations have equal opportunity to be heard. I have extensive experience as a manager and administrator, and I have strong people skills and team building skills. I will be able to work well with the other council members and listen to community members, and thereby serve as a conduit of the wills of residents to the council.

PLACE 3

JEREMIAH J. HAMMER



Phone: 214-738-5560

Email: info@themckinneyhammer.com

Website: www.themckinneyhammer.com

Facebook: Jeremiah Hammer for McKinney City Council District 3

Education: -

Occupation: Founder of Sustainable Ventures, a company that helps businesses identify, measure and leverage data, in order to gain a competitive advantage and operate more efficiently

Highlights of civic involvement:

McKinney Historic Neighborhood Association, 7 years

McKinney Community Garden & Holy Family School, 5 years

Chairman, Community Grants Advisory Commission, 3 years (chairman 1)

2012 McKinney Artist Studio Tour host home

2013 Leadership McKinney Alum

2014 Leadership McKinney Curriculum Committee

McKinney Housing Authority, 4 years (Vice Chairman 1.5)

Facilitated \$25mm redevelopment of senior and disabled adult apartment community

Member, Kiwanis Club 6 years

REACH mentor, 4 years

McKinney Garden Club, 3 years

Youth Summit, 5 years

Collin County Homeless Coalition annual census, 5 years

Platform:

I am highly focused on several issues. Our current tax revenues are overly based on residential property taxes. We can't provide relief to homeowners without properly planning and expanding our commercial and retail development. Proper planning and infrastructure are critical to our city's ability to attract commercial and retail growth. The increased tax base generated by this growth, will, in turn, lower the tax burden on homeowners. Our history clearly indicates that the city can attract residential growth; however, our success with retail and commercial has been less than stellar. Our current transportation infrastructure is approaching gridlock due to the city's rapid residential growth. This is obvious when looking at the current traffic patterns on 75, 380, 121, Custer and other major and secondary thoroughways. If we are going to be successful in attracting nonresidential growth, we must address the current issues relating to our transportation infrastructure. Our expansion must be implemented in a way which does not destroy the green spaces which make our city unique.

GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONAIRE

What would you, as a City Council Member, do to educate yourself about the diverse community you serve, including the LGBT community? Do you consider it a priority to ensure that city employees receive diversity training which includes information regarding the LGBT community?

First, we should know: what do we do now; how long is the training class; what is covered in the class; how would it make a meaningful difference; and what is the measure that shows it will make a difference in the city or people. I would like to see the data that supports this to ensure we make best decision can be made.

Since the Supreme Court ruled in favor of marriage equality, there has been a wave of proposals, at every level of government, to pass laws which allow businesses to refuse service to the LGBT community. What would you do to ensure that LGBT constituents are treated equally by businesses in our city?

As we saw with the Hobby Lobby ruling, a microscopic minority of businesses support such bills, and I believe most of these bills empower business owners rather than employees and consumers. The majority of fortune 5000 businesses are pro-LGBT, as well as most major sports leagues including businesses in McKinney like Raytheon.

The so-called "bathroom bill," known as Texas SB6, says that the restrooms and changing facilities in public spaces — public schools and government buildings, for example — should be restricted to people of the same "biological sex." The bill defines biological sex as the sex listed on one's birth certificate. The bill would overrule any local transgender-friendly bathroom ordinances, like ones passed in Dallas and Austin. Please discuss your opposition or support of this legislation.

The last thing I'm going to do is tell a woman whether or not she should feel comfortable changing in front of another person with the biology of a man. Speaker Straus will likely keep SB6's companion bill in committee and I believe this bill and the ERO's that inspired it were conceived for political gain rather than those they purport to serve.

Currently there is no state or federal law that protects LGBT individuals in regards to employment. How can you assure City hiring, firing and promotions will be conducted without regard to sexual orientation and gender identity?

I would be supportive of a policy for city employees that would only allow for the firing of personnel for performance issues, with a performance improvement plan, access to HR and an appeals process. I would also be willing to consider a requirement that the city manager meet with every person who files an appeal

Why should members of the LGBT community support your candidacy?

McKinney is growing and there are many directions we can take. I believe that we must preserve our unique nature, and keep McKinney the home for all who are here now while encouraging and welcoming growth. We can incentivize new development and approve rezonings so it serves our city and citizens. To do this we need a balanced approach that includes limited government, quality city services, low taxes and healthy debt margins. This should be a community-centered focus which empowers those who have made McKinney their home sweet home.

PLACE 3

SHEILA JOHNSON



Phone: 214-789-7256

Email: SheilaforMckinney@outlook.com

Website: www.sheilajohnsonformckinney.com

Facebook: Sheila Johnson for McKinney

Education: Graduate of **Richland College**; Studied business/marketing, **University of North Texas**; participated in the **“Women in Motion” program, Southern Methodist University**

Occupation: Investment Professional

Highlights of civic involvement:

Co-founder and board member of the McKinney Public Safety Children’s Scholarship Foundation which provides scholarships to the children of McKinney’s First Responders.

McKinney Economic Development Corporation Board

McKinney Chamber of Commerce Women’s Alliance Advisory Board

Graduate of Leadership McKinney

Voted one of the Top 25 Women in Business by the McKinney Chamber Magazine – 2012

Minute Man Gala committee

Stonebridge and Eldorado Ladies Associations

Authored “McKinney Women Making a Difference”, profiling 12 outstanding women in McKinney – 2014

Platform:

Attract community friendly companies to help our tax base & employment.

Look for ways to reduce our property taxes.

Strengthen our communication with the school district and Collin College.

Move forward with a solution to our downtown parking problem.

Pay attention to our aging infrastructure.

Solve the transportation challenge for the disabled and senior citizens.

Monitor closely the needs of the police and fire departments to ensure our safety.

Foster relationships with our Arts and Historic Community which strive to express our “Unique” heritage.

Continue to explore favorable environmental airport opportunities.

Address the need for a new city hall to improve efficiencies.

Provide regular maintenance of our beautiful parks.

GALA did not receive a response to its Candidate Questionnaire from Sheila Johnson.

PLACE 3

SCOTT ELLIOTT



Phone: -

Email: scott4mckinney@gmail.com

Website: www.scott4mckinney.com

Facebook: -

Education: Baylor University

Occupation: Financial Gravity – Investor and Account Executive; Alagar Inc. – Chief Operating Officer

Highlights of civic involvement:

McKinney Community Development Corporation – Past Chairman
Graduate, Leadership McKinney
Cottonwood Creek Baptist Church – Member & Teacher
Global Sports Partners, Board Member
Center for Children & Families, Past Board Member
Society of Information Management – Past Board Member and Treasurer
United Way – Past Campaign Chairman
Technology Grant Review Committee – Past member

Platform:

Safety and Security
Collaboration
Strategic Planning
Budgeting
McKinney Historic District and Downtown
Economic Development / Tax base expansion
Transportation
McKinney National Airport
Quality of Life
Transparency and Accountability
Water and Sustainability
Governance

GALA did not receive a response to its Candidate Questionnaire from Scott Elliott.

AT LARGE

THOMAS "TJ" REILLY



Phone: (972) 302-2798

Email: tjreilly@reillyruns.org

Website: www.reillyruns.org

Facebook: Reilly Runs 2017- McKinney City Council At Large

Education: -

Occupation: -

Highlights of civic involvement:

Platform:

BUDGET - As community leaders, we need someone who is strong and responsible running the budget. I intend to stay focused on the big picture and be steadfast in my convictions when it comes to creating a common sense budget that addresses our city's needs. Out of control spending is a slippery slope that can easily begin in situations like we have in McKinney, where the tax revenue has grown so fast. Living in New York for the time that I did, I have personally seen the negative effects of this behavior. It is my duty to represent the welfare of those in the community who plan on living in this city for a long time.

PUBLIC SAFETY - The main scope and goal of a government is public safety. I proudly support all emergency first responders, peace officers, firefighters and all other professions that protect the liberties and well being of this city. As a city councilman, I will ensure we provide our heroes with what they need to keep this city safe. Additionally, I promise to continue growing the relationships between peace officers and the community members they protect.

TAXES - The McKinney property tax revenue in the past five years has increased by over 40% as median home values continue to rise by over 30%. Our taxes have gone down only .01%(per \$100) in that same time frame. In 2014, McKinney was voted the best place to live in the US, and therefore the world. How much more tax dollars per citizen is necessary when we are already the best? Taxes will be lowered CONSIDERABLY if I have anything to say about it.

ECONOMY - I'm a natural promoter and salesman by trade. McKinney is an extremely easy sell, and I would help attract multiple established corporations to call McKinney their home. New business is imperative to a balanced economic ecosystem. Home values will continue to rise if we take advantage of our virtually untapped commercial potential.

DIVERSITY - Nearly 30% of voting-aged citizens are ages 20-35. There are currently no members of council under 35. The 52% of our population that are Texas transplants are also underrepresented. I represent the views of the largest and unaccounted-for age group, along with the transplanted citizens that make up the majority of this city.

COMMERCIAL RELATIONS - There is no secret that building new business in McKinney is extremely complex and economically disadvantageous. We cannot attract large companies if we are strapped with massive regulation and high property taxes. McKinney has missed out on great commercial relocation opportunities. This will be turned around when I am in council.

GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

What would you, as a City Council Member, do to educate yourself about the diverse community you serve, including the LGBT community? Do you consider it a priority to ensure that city employees receive diversity training which includes information regarding the LGBT community?

As I am endorsed by the Libertarian Party, I believe that all citizens should be afforded the same opportunity no matter what their beliefs are. Anytime the government overreaches their purpose and meddles into morality is unacceptable.

Since the Supreme Court ruled in favor of marriage equality, there has been a wave of proposals, at every level of government, to pass laws which allow businesses to refuse service to the LGBT community. What would you do to ensure that LGBT constituents are treated equally by businesses in our city?

These laws are unconstitutional and not the place for government interaction. I support the first amendment and encourage those who feel slighted to legally promote their view through social awareness.

The so-called "bathroom bill," known as Texas SB6, says that the restrooms and changing facilities in public spaces — public schools and government buildings, for example — should be restricted to people of the same "biological sex." The bill defines biological sex as the sex listed on one's birth certificate. The bill would overrule any local transgender-friendly bathroom ordinances, like ones passed in Dallas and Austin. Please discuss your opposition or support of this legislation.

This bill WILL be abused by heterosexuals and puts those of all genders ages and sexual orientation at risk. I am all for social liberties, but this encroaches on public safety.

Currently there is no state or federal law that protects LGBT individuals in regards to employment. How can you assure City hiring, firing and promotions will be conducted without regard to sexual orientation and gender identity?

This would be on a case by case basis. If it can be proved that there is an injustice, it will be dealt with accordingly as council has the right to appoint and fire the city staff leaders.

Why should members of the LGBT community support your candidacy?

I am the only candidate that promotes liberty for all.

AT LARGE

MICHAEL JONES



Phone: 469-307-6695

Email: mhjones33@yahoo.com

Website: www.michaelhjones.com

Facebook: -

Education: MBA - University of Dallas; BBA Finance - University of North Texas

Occupation: Commercial Banker

Highlights of civic involvement:

Junior Achievement: A non-profit agency geared towards teaching kindergarteners through 12th-graders work-readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy skills.

Homes4Heros: Renovating homes for our veterans that cannot afford it.

Heights at Westridge HOA Treasure/President: Served as a board member since 2013

Ash Woods Park Bridge Construction

Platform:

Infrastructure

Evaluate and invest in infrastructure projects (roadways, sanitation, sewer, and water)

Review past road development plans to make sure we are making the best decisions for our future

Ensure our infrastructure is primed for growth

Public Safety

Ensuring our Police and Fire departments are up to date with technology and equipment which in turn will reduce overall operating costs for our public services

Evaluate pay scales to make sure we are doing what's necessary to retain our public officers

Review, update, and expand our public safety offices

Economic Development

Drive tax revenue through encouraging business to move to McKinney

Reduce the homeowners property tax burden by working to continue to decrease property tax rates

Focus on career growth, not just job growth. Encourage companies with higher paying jobs to come to the community so more professionals work and live here

GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

What would you, as a City Council Member, do to educate yourself about the diverse community you serve, including the LGBT community? Do you consider it a priority to ensure that city employees receive diversity training which includes information regarding the LGBT community?

As a commercial banker, I meet people of all walks of life on a daily basis. The community I live in is predominantly Indian and they learn from me as I learn from them with daily interaction. None of us need to be trained on diversity because my community is already accepting of diversity. If a city employee believes that diversity training with further help their career, I believe we should provide some options for that employee.

Since the Supreme Court ruled in favor of marriage equality, there has been a wave of proposals, at every level of government, to pass laws which allow businesses to refuse service to the LGBT community. What would you do to ensure that LGBT constituents are treated equally by businesses in our city?

I would be for following the laws that are currently on the books to protect me as a African American.

The so-called "bathroom bill," known as Texas SB6, says that the restrooms and changing facilities in public spaces — public schools and government buildings, for example — should be restricted to people of the same "biological sex." The bill defines biological sex as the sex listed on one's birth certificate. The bill would overrule any local transgender-friendly bathroom ordinances, like ones passed in Dallas and Austin. Please discuss your opposition or support of this legislation.

I'm for bathrooms just being called "Bathroom". As for schools with locker rooms where everyone is getting dressed together, I would love for more thought to be put into this issue rather than a blanket yes or no.

Currently there is no state or federal law that protects LGBT individuals in regards to employment. How can you assure City hiring, firing and promotions will be conducted without regard to sexual orientation and gender identity?

Resume's and phone interviews.

Why should members of the LGBT community support your candidacy?

I understand the diversity issues people face in McKinney. I'm willing to listen and learn from the people around me.

AT LARGE

DEREK V. BAKER



Phone: 214-551-4604

Email: derek@derekvbaker.org

Website: www.derekvbaker.org

Facebook: Derek Baker for McKinney City Council

Education: BS in Political Science, Religion and Business, Liberty University

Occupation: Real Estate Agent, Keller Williams

Highlights of civic involvement:

Treasurer, Collin County Child Protective Services Board, 2012-2015

President, Collin County Conservative Republicans club, 2012-2015; Vice-President, 2016, Assistant Treasurer, 2016-Present

Collin County Association of Realtors Government Affairs Committee, 2015-Present

Republican Precinct Chair, Precinct 131 in McKinney, 2012-Present

Chairman & Founding Board Member, Texans for Freedom & Liberty, 2013-Present

President, Collin County Conservative Republicans, 2012-2015

Finance Chair & Board Member, Collin County Conservative Republicans, 2015-2017

Elected and served as Delegate to the Texas Republican Convention, 2012, 2014

Rick Perry for President & Rick Santorum for President Campaigns, 2012

Andy Harris for Congress Campaign (MD-01), 2008 & 2010

Michael Steele for Senate Campaign, 2006

Bush-Cheney Campaign, 2004 Advance Team

Pat Toomey for Senate, Primary Campaign, 2004

Bush-Cheney Campaign 2000

Active in various sports, and compete in 10k races, triathlons, marathons, etc.

Platform:

I intend to illustrate the significant growth of city government in the last several years, note the strain these significant tax increases are placing on home owners, and work with my colleagues to adopt more reasonable budgets that properly fund core city functions while controlling growth to that of either inflation or population increases. If we do not work toward this goal now, the Texas legislature may soon pass mandatory roll-back statutes that force cities to keep growth under 4 percent or face the taxpayers in roll-back tax elections.

GALA did not receive a response to its Candidate Questionnaire from Derek V. Baker.

AT LARGE

CHARLIE PHILIPS



Phone: (214) 683-6508

Email: philips.charlie@gmail.com

Website: www.charliephilips.com

Facebook: Elect Charlie Philips for a Better McKinney

Education: Bachelor of Science in Architecture and a Masters in Architecture, University of Texas – Arlington;
Doctorate of Jurisprudence, St. Mary's University

Occupation: Attorney

Highlights of civic involvement:

Children's Sunday school teacher, 1998 to Present, First Methodist Church McKinney

Committee Member, Ducks Unlimited, 1995 to present

Board member, 2012 to present, Hope School

Pro bono legal advisor to Cornerstone Christian School

Pro bono legal advisor to Community Health Clinic

Board Member Cornerstone Ranch- home for special needs adults- 2015 to present

Platform:

Taxes - I'm concerned about our downward spiraling, out of balance tax base. At our fast rate of growth we are quickly running out of opportunities. If this is not promptly corrected we will not have a sustainable future for our children and the generations that follow.

Growth - I am, like you, disappointed about the City's reputation of being difficult to work with. This kind of label, regardless of its merit, undermines our ability to compete for high reward commercial developments and forces us to settle for an imbalance of residential growth versus commercial growth. Ultimately this leads us into the no win cycle of raising the burden on homeowners and on our remaining businesses.

Quality of Life - or me and my family, McKinney has always been known for its first class quality-of-life, the type of life that you would want to share with others. This issue goes hand-in-hand with the taxes and growth issues mentioned above; in order to attract new business you have to offer something better than your neighbor; and ordered to increase your corporate tax base, to relieve the burdens on the residential taxpayers, you have to increase business interests in the community.

GALA did not receive a response to its Candidate Questionnaire from Charlie Philips.



**VOTER GUIDE
McKINNEY CITY COUNCIL
Spring, 2017**

AT LARGE

KEVIN M. SMALLWOOD

Phone:

Email:

Website:

Facebook:

Education:

Occupation:

Highlights of civic involvement:

Platform:

NO INFORMATION WAS FOUND ON THIS CANDIDATE.

SEARCHES FOR A WEBSITE OR FACEBOOK PRESENCE PRODUCED NO RESULTS.

THERE WAS NO RECORD OF HIS PARTICIPATION IN ANY DEBATE, CANDIDATE Q & A OR MEDIA INTERVIEW.

GALA did not receive a response to its Candidate Questionnaire from Kevin M. Smallwood.