



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

**PLANO
CANDIDATES FOR CITY COUNCIL
MAY 9, 2017**

PLACE 2

**ALFONSO "AL" VALENTE
ANN BACCHUS
ANTHONY RICCIARDELLI**

PLACE 4

**KAYCI PRINCE
EDWARD "ED" ACKLIN**

PLACE 6 – MAYOR

**HARRY LaROSILIERE
LEILEI "LILY" BAO
BILL LISLE III
DOUGLAS REEVES**

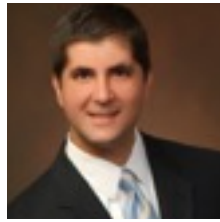
PLACE 8

**DAVID L. DOWNS
RICK SMITH
STIRLING MORRIS**

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.

PLACE 2

ALFONSO "AL" VALENTE



Phone: 214-986-3757

Email: alforplano@gmail.com

Website: www.alforplano.com

Facebook: Al Valente

Education: MBA Finance, New York University - BS Finance, Virginia Tech University

Occupation: Bell and Valente Wealth Management, Founding Partner

Highlights of civic involvement:

Civic Involvement

Plano Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors (2011-16); Chairman (2015)
City of Plano Community Relations Commission (2009-13); Chairman (2013)
Leadership Plano Graduate (2007)

School District Involvement

PISD Education Foundation Investment Committee Member (Present)
Brinker Elementary School Watch D.O.G. Volunteer (2013-Present)

Non-Profit Involvement

Children's Advocacy Center of Collin County Board of Directors (Present)
Parkway Hills Baptist Church Board Member (2012 - 14)
Parkway Hills Baptist Church Finance Committee (2009-11); Chairman (2011)
Parkway Hills Baptist Church Deacon
Crown Financial Study Leader

Platform:

Population Density – Plano must not compromise the success of its schools and the quality of life that have been a hallmark of the city. I will protect Plano's suburban environment through smart development. I will also partner with the school district to ensure council decisions support an environment in which our schools can thrive.

Public Safety – Plano has been recognized as the safest city in America with a population over 250,000 for two years in a row. It is crucial that we maintain our safety by investing in our police and fire departments through supporting adequate levels of personnel and providing them with the resources and training required to perform their jobs effectively.

Transportation/Mobility – Improving transportation is more than widening roads or timing stop lights. I will work with local and county officials and the business sector to address Plano's traffic problems through multiple solutions and a collaborative effort.

Water – Water rations are not new for Plano but with increased population in surrounding communities, water is becoming a finite resource. Additionally, Plano is paying the Water District for water that is not being used by its citizens. I will advocate for a change in the existing Water District contract with our state legislators.

Revitalization – While portions of Plano are brand new, many other parts are aging. I would like to focus on opportunities that the city has to redevelop under-used properties and refurbish portions of the city that are showing their age.

Petitions & Referendums - I support referendums that allow the citizens' voices to be heard.

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?

I would continue to attend functions and meet with people from all different communities. Education plays a vital role in helping us work together to make our community stronger.

The Plano Equal Rights Ordinance was updated in December 2014 to add sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, veterans status, and genetic formation to the previous list of protected classes. Explain your support or opposition to retaining the ERO as amended?

I believe there is no place for discrimination in our community. In 2015 as Chairman of Board for the Plano Chamber of Commerce I signed an anti-discrimination resolution. I also voted to support that the Plano Chamber sign the Texas Competes pledge.

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 feel that some legislators are creating unnecessary regulations.

Please describe any experience or involvement you have had with LGBT individuals or the LGBT community that has helped shape your viewpoint of LGBT issues.

My involvement with the Plano Chamber has had provided a number of new relationships with the LGBT community.

Why should members of the LGBT community support your candidacy?

I am a candidate that understands and values the benefits of diversity in our community.

PLACE 2

ANN BACCHUS



Phone: 972-658-9587

Email: annforplano@gmail.com

Website: annforplano.com

Facebook: Ann Bacchus for Plano City Council

Education: BAS in Business, York University; J.D., Texas Wesleyan University School of Law

Occupation: Attorney, specializing in family law; previously an attorney at Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas

Highlights of civic involvement:

Genesis Women's Shelter
Salvation Army
Ronald McDonald House

Platform:

Civic engagement - In the past two decades, Plano has not only grown dramatically, but its demographics have been changing, bringing Plano a rich diversity of talent and promise that is making a wonderful city even stronger, more exciting and full of promise. These hardworking newcomers have already put down roots, but we've not yet seen that diversity fully reflected in our civic engagement, or on our City Council. Without that engagement, we are leaving far too much talent and civic energy on the sidelines, and that's something I hope to be able to help change. Plano is great: by embracing and energizing the talents of all of our citizens, we can make it even better.

Advocating for all of Plano - Plano must continue to be a welcoming community for all. To maintain our high standard of living and competitive edge as a world class city we need to understand and support each other in a manner that everyone feels inclusion. Every resident is important and every resident's opinion matters. I see opportunities to improve community engagement, involvement and empowerment. Expert planning processes efficiently implemented by committed and professional staff are essential, but City government needs to really listen to community care-about's, and recognize and respect the time and effort it takes to ensure that everyone's voice is heard.

Excellent quality of life for all - My experience as a family law attorney for more than 15 years, licensed by both the Supreme Court of Texas and the Supreme Court of the United States of America is an important and unique part of what I have to offer on the City Council. I am committed to supporting and strengthening the strong sense of community and an excellent quality of life for all of Plano's residents. I will work towards ensuring city facilities and services continue to be readily available to all our residents, and that all are made welcome and shown respect. I will work on engaging our entire community and create an atmosphere in which all people feel valued, respected and have the same opportunities as others. I will work to overcome any economic, geographic, cultural or other barriers that may limit access to some, and will make sure that neighborhood residents get as much respect and deference as do investors, developers and other professionals who regularly engage with City government.

Plano Tomorrow - I recognize that Plano Tomorrow is the currently approved plan, but also recognize that there are many citizens who feel that their concerns have not been fully heard, or adequately addressed. While there are many thoughtful elements of the recently adopted plan that can serve us well, I am open to listening, reexamining and amending portions of the plan as well as exploring new ideas that may help address that concern many of our citizens.

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?

If elected as your city council member, I will continue to educate myself about the diverse community of Plano, including the LGBT community by (1) continuing to listen to our constituents so as to identify, understand and appreciate further issues of cultural diversity, obtain a fresh perspectives and shed new light on tough problems by bringing non-mainstream groups into the civic discussion, (2) engage, welcome and recognize differences in religion, sexual orientation, socioeconomics, cultural, ethnic backgrounds etc. of all of Plano's citizens so as to create a climate of inclusion, (3) build trust and establish a safe, positive environment where difficult topics affecting the citizens can be discussed before moving to the harder questions of action and (4) take an active role in setting city priorities to ensure that our plans for the future will benefit all Plano citizens from every walk of life. Yes, I consider it a priority to ensure that city employees receive diversity training, including information regarding the LGBT community, because when you are working with people and building relationships with them, it is helpful to have some perspective and understanding of their cultures. While we are all human beings and we all love deeply, want to learn, have hopes and dreams, and have experienced pain and fear; we can't pretend our cultures and differences don't matter. We can't pretend discrimination doesn't exist. We must recognize that Plano is at a particularly critical time in its history as it experiences a changing demographics and an increase in diversity. In order to keep up with these changes and sustain our culture of excellence it is essential that we promote equity, embrace diversity and differences and encourage active participation of all our citizens. Continuing with business as usual will mean failure or mediocrity for Plano. As an attorney and mediator I have the experience, knowledge and training to grasp the complexities of the law, the associated risks and potential rewards of a change and to consider creative solutions to reach a win-win outcome for all concerned.

The Plano Equal Rights Ordinance was updated in December 2014 to add sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, veterans status, and genetic formation to the previous list of protected classes. Explain your support or opposition to retaining the ERO as amended?

I support the Equal Right Ordinance as amended. Discrimination is wrong, no matter whom it affects. I am committed to ensuring every Plano citizen's and visitor's rights are protected. Although every person is unique, some of us have been mistreated or oppressed because we are members of a particular group. If we ignore these present-day or historical differences, we may fail to understand the needs of these individuals. Often people are afraid that recognizing differences will divide us. However, learning about our differences can actually bring our community closer together, because it can reveal important parts of each other lives. It can show us how much we have in common as human beings. I believe that there is room for everyone in Plano. Plano is known for its outstanding quality of life. LGBT people contributed to this high standard of living, as did all of Plano's residents. All people, including LGBT, should have the opportunity to live in peace, be treated with respect, dignity and compassion in the same manner as all Plano's residents.

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 the "bathroom bill." This entire conversation of who can or cannot go into whichever bathroom is a non-issue because there is zero evidence that indicates allowing trans people into bathrooms that align with their gender leads to an increase in sexual and physical assaults. That alone should be enough to squash this bill. In addition, to date, there haven't been any verified reports of a trans person attacking anyone in a public bathroom. Instead of being a response to any actual problem women and children face, this bill creates the illusion of a problem while serving to further stigmatize and create a culture of violence against an already violently targeted group.

ANN BACCHUS

GALA CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE – con't

Please describe any experience or involvement you have had with LGBT individuals or the LGBT community that has helped shape your viewpoint of LGBT issues.

One of my best friends is gay. He is an amazing, caring, intelligent person. He and his partner had been together for eight years when in 2010 he was diagnosed with cancer. Although his partner had great medical coverage through his employer and wanted to add him on his plan as a beneficiary, he couldn't unless they were related. Since they were not allowed to lawfully marry and Texas at the time did not recognize common law marriage between same sex couple, my friend's partner decided to adopt him to get the health insurance coverage. The adoption went smoothly, and my friend's partner was able to add him as beneficiary to his health insurance. My friend got the treatment, and it was successful. .

In 2015 when the law changed and my friend and his partner wanted to get married, they could not because Texas does not allow a father to marry his son. My friend and his partner were once again victims of laws that refuse to allow them to love each other in the capacity they desired. Neither the arguments nor the law made sense. It all seemed cruel, unnecessary and confusing to me. My friend and his partner did not really share a father-son relationship, but the law declared them as such in order for them to gain access to medical insurance. I've seen this circumstance play out on a number of occasions. It's hurtful, it's difficult and it's intrinsically wrong.

Why should members of the LGBT community support your candidacy?

I am committed to representing all the citizens of Plano, including those who have been and those who have not been part of its historical mainstream. I myself am from a community outside the historical mainstream. I have and will continue to foster an atmosphere of inclusion. I have the skills and experience to understand and appreciate many cultures, establish relationships with people from cultures other than our own, and build strong alliances with different cultural groups thereby keeping Plano the best city today and tomorrow for you, your children and grandchildren.

PLACE 2

ANTHONY RICCIARDELLI



Phone: 972-345-8730

Email: anthony@anthonyforplano.com

Website: anthonyforplano.com

Facebook: Anthony for Plano

Education: University of Texas; University of Texas School of Law

Occupation: Lawyer

Highlights of civic involvement:

Served as Vice Chair of the Plano Heritage Commission
Serves on the Board of Joni and Friends (a ministry to those affected by disability and their families that has its regional headquarters at the Hope Center here in Plano)
Dallas Association of Young Lawyers
International Justice Mission
Active member of The Ridge Church

Platform:

Preserve Plano's Character through Smarter Land Use - With our remaining land, Plano must focus on land uses that are consistent with the character of the community that we all know and love, not on high-density development projects. I will advocate for a suburban Plano, while continuing to recruit desirable employers to our city. I am the only candidate for Plano City Council Place 2 who has been endorsed by PlanoFuture.org in recognition of my commitment to keeping Plano suburban.

Decrease Tax Burden on Plano Families - As home values rise, so do property taxes – that is, unless we decrease the tax rate enough to offset the increase in property valuations. If elected, I will fight tax increases by advocating for the largest possible tax rate decreases.

Strong Business Climate - As a Councilmember, I will work with stakeholders to promote a strong business climate that supports small business owners, cultivates cutting-edge innovators, and attracts blue-chip employers from around the globe.

Religious Liberty - It is dangerous and unconstitutional for government to control religious beliefs. I will stand strong in support of our religious liberty.

Limited Government - I support improving government efficiency by focusing government on its core functions. This will decrease government spending – and, as a result, taxes – without compromising essential services like public safety and road maintenance.

Transparency, Responsiveness and Accountability - Plano's residents deserve a responsive government that is held accountable to the citizens. Complete transparency is the only way to make government accountable to the citizens. I will always maintain an open-door policy during my time on Council.

Improve Roads and Traffic Conditions - Families need to be able to get to work and school on our roads. Improving roads and reducing traffic will be one of my top priorities during my time on Council.

Referendums - I support conducting referendums when citizen petitions are submitted.

GALA did not receive a response to its Candidate Questionnaire from Anthony Ricciardelli.

PLACE 4

KAYCI PRINCE



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Website: www.kayciprince.net

Facebook: Kayci Prince for Plano City Council

Education: Southern Methodist University - Bachelor of Arts in Corporate Communications and Public Affairs with a minor in Political Science; Master of Business Administration degree from Texas A&M Commerce

Occupation: Marketing and Public Relations for a local hospital; Worked in Congressman Sam Johnson's office

Highlights of civic involvement:

Active member of Grace Outreach Center in Plano where her husband has served as a pastor for 15 years her father has served as Senior Pastor since it was established in 1982.

Platform:

People - Great people are the heartbeat and core of any great community, and Plano is full of great people. In order to remain a vibrant city, we must continually work to keep our citizens engaged and invested in our community. Let's do this by; building a strong sense of community by bringing people together through the increased use of technology and innovative approaches to enhancing our citizen's quality of life. This might look like mobile library services at local coffee shops, fitness classes in a neighborhood park, or a splash pad in a local park; providing a business-friendly environment that ensures that both small and large businesses can achieve their strategic goals without being hindered by unnecessary regulations; and encouraging more community involvement in existing programs like Love Where You Live and looking for new opportunities to partner with local organizations to help meet the needs of our citizens, especially seniors in our community who may need regular assistance with home maintenance.

Safety - Plano has always placed the highest priority on keeping its people safe and has earned the reputation as one of the safest cities in the USA. Let's keep our city safe by; equipping Plano Fire-Rescue and the Plano Police Department with the necessary resources to continue to provide a high-level of service with low response times for our citizens; ensuring both Plano Police and Plano Fire-Rescue are able to obtain adequate training to ensure all personnel are prepared to meet the changing needs of our citizens and to respond to new scenarios that may arise within our city; supporting the hiring of a highly qualified Police force and Fire Department; backing Plano Fire-Rescue in their efforts to maintain their Insurance Service Officer Class 1 classification, which is used by insurance companies to determine premiums within our city.

Revitalization - Plano has always been a thriving and vibrant city that people have chosen to call home. Let's keep Plano a place we all want to call home for years to come by; promoting reinvestment in mature neighborhoods to ensure the long-term health and integrity of our city's housing stock; analyzing data from established programs like The Great Update Rebate to adapt programs based on community need and to increase effectiveness; building strong neighborhood identity and a sense of community through creative placemaking and the creation of unique gathering spaces in our neighborhoods; addressing underutilized four-corner retail and aging multifamily developments to enhance the entryways to Plano's neighborhoods; and adding new green spaces with distinctive character and weaving unique art elements throughout our parks and cityscape to really set Plano apart as a special place to live and spend time.

KAYCI PRINCE

Mobility - The ability to move efficiently and effectively between home, work, school, and the places we enjoy spending time is a key component to maintaining a high quality of life for our citizens. Let's work at improving mobility by; engaging leaders throughout the region in conversations about implementing a variety of innovative congestion alleviation measures, such as reversible traffic lanes, express bus services and synchronizing traffic signals; promoting partnerships between the City and local businesses that choose to help reduce traffic at peak times of the day by implementing flexible work hours, compressed work weeks or carpooling; supporting the use of public transportation throughout the city and region by increasing access to public transportation and by making the use of public transportation easier and more attractive; and creating a more pedestrian and bike-friendly city by implementing wider sidewalks, additional trail connections, and more bike racks in strategic locations throughout the city, which will create safer and more convenient options for those who prefer a more walkable and bikable environment.

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?

Since I grew up in Plano, work in Plano, volunteer in Plano and am raising two boys in Plano, I feel that I have made it a point to educate myself on the diversity in our community and to get to know people from a variety of different cultures and backgrounds. As a Council member I would continue to educate myself by meeting with as many citizens as possible and listening to them about their concerns and hopes for our city. I'm supportive of continuing diversity programs that the City may already have in place.

The Plano Equal Rights Ordinance was updated in December 2014 to add sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, veterans status, and genetic formation to the previous list of protected classes. Explain your support or opposition to retaining the ERO as amended?

This has been a very contentious issue for our city, and I feel like it could have been handled better. I will not actively work to change the ERO. I will be working to operate our city more efficiently so we can focus on protecting citizens, improving mobility and preserving our high quality of life.

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.

My focus will be on protecting citizens, improving mobility and preserving our high quality of life. Many facilities have gender specific and family bathrooms, which I feel should be sufficient.

Please describe any experience or involvement you have had with LGBT individuals or the LGBT community that has helped shape your viewpoint of LGBT issues.

I have had many positive interactions with members of the LGBT community personally, professionally and as a community volunteer.

Why should members of the LGBT community support your candidacy?

All people in Plano should support my candidacy because I am the most qualified candidate in Place 4. My parents raised me to give back to the community, and I have been doing that my entire adult life through volunteer efforts and serving in various board positions. Serving on the Plano Parks and Rec Board, the Planning and Zoning Commission and a host of other committees has given me a broad view of how our city operates and has prepared me well to serve the citizens of Plano.

PLACE 4

EDWARD "ED" ACKLIN



Phone: 972-798-3598

Email: info@edacklincampaign.com

Website: www.edacklincampaign.com

Facebook: Ed Acklin for Plano City Council

Education: Southern Methodist University, Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering

Occupation: Owned and operated his own electrical construction company for 25 years
Managing Partner of the family real estate holding company

Highlights of civic involvement:

Appointed to Plano's Building Standards Commission
Appointed to be a Collin County Poll Judge for the 2016 General Election
Holds an Electrical Masters License from the State of Texas
Served as past President of the North Texas Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association
Is a Certified Instructor for "ServSafe" Food Handling, a division of the National Restaurant Association
Served as Unit Director (Blue Hat-retired) with Texas Baptist Men
Long-time Member of the NRA
Earned a 3rd Degree Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do karate

Platform:

Hate Crimes in Plano - Four members of our Plano Community approached me. They asked me if I would be willing to make a statement about my position on Hate Crimes. I am so thankful that they did because it had not occurred to me to do that. My answer was immediately YES and the following is my statement: Hate Crimes have no place in a City like Plano. They have no place in civilized society. I want to state clearly: I will not condone that kind of behavior and as a Plano City Councilman, I will use the power of my office to combat Hate Crimes, in all of it's ugly forms. Hate Crimes are against the basic principles of my Christian faith and this is absolutely one of my basic principles.

My Bible says, "*You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council.*" Matthew 5:21-22

Oversee the City Budget - Currently the City Council has limited opportunity to review the City Budget before it is passed and the Tax Rate is set. The Council has a responsibility to control the purse strings of the City Government. The City Council should be given ample time and the opportunity to review the City Budget to the extent that the Council deems appropriate. The City Staff should adjust the time necessary to prepare the budget to allow the Council sufficient time for a proper review.

Transparent Voting Records - Currently it is very difficult to determine how an individual Council Members votes. That also applies to the Commission members. The Minutes of Meetings do not give a record of how an individual member votes on any particular issue. This makes it almost impossible to find how well a council member or commissioner votes and represents their constituents. I want that changed and I promise to publish my own record should I fail to get this measure passed.

EDWARD “ED” ACKLIN

Be Responsive to Voters - The current City Council rejected two Petitions of the Plano Voters. 12,000 voices were ignored. These petitions were discarded on technicalities. That just won't happen on my watch. I want to hear from the citizens of Plano and not just on Election Day. I will join with other Council Members to conduct Town Hall Meetings and always be open to personal communications from citizens.

Voting by District - Currently all Council Places run at-large. The only distinction is that candidates for Districts 1-4 must reside in district they are running for. I believe that the voters that also live in that district should elect the candidate for that District. That would insure that the voters have a representative that was actually elected by them and will be responsive to them. Districts 5-8 (District 6 is the Mayor) are elected at-large.

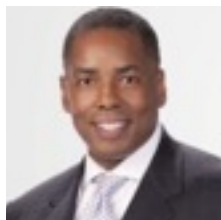
Extend the Time Limit for Collecting Petition Signatures - The current City Charter allows only 30 days to collect signatures on Petitions. State Law allows the limit to be as much as 180 days unless it is shortened by the individual City's Council. That Council has the power to change that time limit without an initiative from the citizens.

Slow the rapid expansion of apartment construction - The City has embarked on an aggressive expansion of the inventory of apartments without adequate consideration as to the need or the long term effects on the City's infrastructure. This expansion should be slowed so that proper study and planning can be given to the need for these apartment units.

GALA did not receive a response to its Candidate Questionnaire from Edward “Ed” Acklin.

PLACE 6

HARRY LaROSILIERE



Phone: (972) 941-7107

Email: planomayorharry@yahoo.com

Website: harry4mayor.com

Facebook: [Plano Mayor Harry LaRosiliere](#)

Education: Bachelor of Science in Geology, City College of New York

Occupation: Financial Advisor; Current Mayor, City of Plano

Highlights of civic involvement:

Plano Metro Rotary Club Board of Directors, Chairman of Community Relations Leadership Plano, Class 14
Chairman, CASA of Collin County (Court Appointed Special Advocates)
Chairman, Leadership Plano
Member of Junior League of Plano
Plano Chamber of Commerce, Vice-Chair Business Development, Vice-Chair of Finance Planning and Zoning Commission, City of Plano
Plano City Council 2003-2009, Deputy Mayor Pro tem, Mayor Pro tem
Mayor, City of Plano, 2009-present

Platform:

In May of 2013, I was elected the 39th Mayor of Plano. My primary focus has been fostering an environment, which brings economic prosperity to all.

Through this positive economic development environment, the city will have the ability to deliver quality services and revitalize neighborhoods. Over the past 3 1/2 years, Plano has emerged as a regional employment center in North Texas. This success includes wins such as Toyota, FedEx, Liberty Mutual, JP Moran, Hilti, and recently Coca-Cola regional HQ's just to name a few. This economic prosperity has allowed Plano to deliver excellence in service through a nationally acclaimed Police and Fire Department, recognized parks and libraries. In 2015 alone, Plano was rated among the top 10 cities nationally in the categories of "Safest Cities in America," "Best Cities for Families," "Excellence in Parks and Recreation" and a "Top Place to Settle Down." Also Plano was voted the "#1 City to Find a Job" in 2016 by WalletHub. Plano has delivered these services with the lowest tax rate in the Metroplex.

I am equally passionate about fostering a sense of community. My role as Mayor is to inspire our citizens, especially our youth to believe they live in the best city in the nation and encourage them to give back to the community. I am proud of our efforts through the Food 4 Kids Plano Program that feeds chronically hungry children and the Plano Mayor's Summer Internship Program that offers real life business experience to the youth.

I am proud to represent this city and will continue to work to keep us a Big City and a Strong Community.

HARRY LaROSILIERE

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?

I will do what I have done for the six years as a city council member and nearly four years as Mayor. I will listen and learn, take the time to understand all people. I will operate with the premise that everyone matters. I support diversity training that allows a workforce to be inclusive and understanding of all fellow workers.

The Plano Equal Rights Ordinance was updated in December 2014 to add sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, veterans status, and genetic formation to the previous list of protected classes. Explain your support or opposition to retaining the ERO as amended?

I made the motion for the passing of the ERO and nothing has changed in how I feel about the matter.

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 the the bill because it is a wedge bill designed to distract people from the utter failure of the state legislature on meaningful work regarding education and transportation. It is a solution in search of a problem.

Please describe any experience or involvement you have had with LGBT individuals or the LGBT community that has helped shape your viewpoint of LGBT issues.

I have had friends and family that are members of the LGBT community. Their sexual orientation has no bearing on who they are as individuals. I have and will always treat another human being on a human level. Plain & simple.

Why should members of the LGBT community support your candidacy?

As Mayor, I have delivered on the promises I made 4 years ago. I have promoted economic development, I have worked on revitalizing neighborhoods and maintained our quality of life. I believed I have earned a second term and I would like to finish the job I started on behalf of all our citizens.

PLACE 6

LEILEI "LILY" BAO



Phone: 214-517-7071

Email: lilyforplano@gmail.com

Website: lily4plano.org

Facebook: Lily For Plano

Education: UMASS-Dartmouth, Bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering earning Summa Cum Laude honors & Highest Achievement Award; Master's degree in Computer Science, Northeastern University

Occupation: -Real Estate Professional; previously worked in the IT industry

Highlights of civic involvement:

Collin County Community Fellowship Church in Plano

Platform:

In recent years, the voice of Plano citizens has been ignored by our City Council and Mayor. Lily will listen to the concerns of the citizens and be your voice at City Hall.

Lily is a fiscal conservative who will work to reduce wasteful spending at the city level. By publishing the city's budget details online, Lily will improve fiscal transparency so that taxpayers can know exactly how their money is being spent.

Lily believes that you can spend your own money better than the government. As Mayor, Lily will work to reduce property taxes easing the burdens of Plano families.

Lily is motivated to aid economic development by attracting high-tech enterprises and encouraging small business development.

With her business experience, community volunteer history, strong citizen advocacy and a record of building effective working teams, Lily will get things done!

Plano citizen first
Reduce the city tax burden
Our way of life
Transparency
Ensuring quality education
Community engagement
Traditional values

GALA did not receive a response to its Candidate Questionnaire from LeiLei "Lily" Bao.

PLACE 6

DOUGLAS REEVES



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Website: www.planoaffh.com

Facebook: -

Education: Bachelor of Theology degree, and worked toward a Masters in Counseling; attended Austin Community College, UTSA, IBC, St. Edwards University, and Houston Graduate School of Theology

Occupation: Small Business Owner; Director of a non-profit organization; concealed/open carry handgun instructor

Highlights of civic involvement:

Douglas Reeves is an advocate for bringing policy change to **Child Protective Services**. When Douglas' two year old granddaughter was murdered in Plano (google Grace Ford Plano for the story) while in the Child Protective Services system, Douglas experienced firsthand how inept and flawed that system is. He has testified before a Senate Committee regarding CPS, counsels and advises parents that are interacting with CPS for the first time, giving advice on how to negotiate the CPS system.

Director of a non-profit organization, My Brothers' Helper, Inc, for 29 years (retired) assisting handicapped adults with finding meaningful employment, operating a vocational school, a home for people with alcohol and drug addictions, and a home for People with AIDS

U.S. Army veteran

Platform:

Taxes - I will be committed to fiscal responsibility. Texas has the 6th highest property taxes in the nation. When elected officials in Plano tell us that the tax rate hasn't risen in years, it is misleading. Our property taxes are tied to property value increases; this puts tax increases on autopilot. We see our property taxes rise every year. The idea that property taxes have to increase as our homes increase in value is simply not tenable. Property tax bills that grow 2.5 times faster than the average citizens' paycheck is not sustainable. Eventually some will be priced out of their homes.

Densified Housing - This is ruinous to our city and must be stopped. This website is largely dedicated to informing the citizenry about high density apartments and the HUD AFFH rule.

Water - Imagine a city paying millions of dollars for water it does not use. This is exactly what is taking place in Plano. Over the past fifteen years the city has paid \$78 million dollars for water that it never used. recently the mayor met with the Texas Development Water Board and is in favor of a water usage review. Why were steps toward solving this problem not taken in 2007? We can do better with tax dollars.

Public safety - We want to feel safe in our nice neighborhoods, parks, and other public places. Fully supporting our first responders, the police and fire departments, is of paramount importance. When my two year old granddaughter, Grace, was murdered in Plano, my family experienced first-hand how truly excellent and professional our Plano Police Department operates. I will be committed to meeting the needs of the fire and police departments, providing them with the tools that they need.

DOUGLAS REEVES

Transportation - What can be done to alleviate traffic congestion? Answers that I have seen bantered about are: Increase bus and rail usage, ask companies to stagger their work hours, synchronize traffic lights, and ask people to ride their bike to work. The object is to get single occupant vehicles off the road; unless that can be accomplished density traffic will be a part of our future. The problem with this is, a study by a consulting firm, Kimley-Horn, concluded that slightly over 1% of people polled (672 people who live, and or work, in the Legacy West area) are willing to give up their vehicle. Except for adjusting traffic lights, the city has no power to require any of these changes, and if implemented the changes will have a minimal effect on reducing traffic congestion. We have to be realistic; we can't pull a rabbit out of a hat, if 5,000 vehicles are added to the Legacy West area, traffic congestion will exist. Something that will go a long way to relieving congestion is stop building high density apartments. Our region (Plano, Frisco Allen, McKinney, and Richardson) is being flooded with people and vehicles.

GALA did not receive a response to its Candidate Questionnaire from Douglas Reeves.

PLACE 8

DAVID L. DOWNS



Phone: (972) 941-7107

Email: david@voteplano.com

Website: www.voteplano.com

Facebook: David Downs - Plano City Council Place 8

Education: Bachelor of Science, Finance, (With Highest Distinction – University of Illinois

Occupation: Certified Financial Planner, Certified Advisor of Senior Living, Retirement Income Certified Professional, Chartered Financial Consultant, Chartered Life Underwriter, The Wharton School Certificate In Retirement Planning, Current Plano City Councilman

Highlights of civic involvement:

Served on the Boards/Advisory Boards of City House, HomeAid, Plano Youth Leadership, Leadership Plano, CASA of Collin County, Art Centre of Plano, Parks & Recreation Board, Planning & Zoning Commission, Star Children's Charities, Collin College Education Foundation, Collin County Healthcare Foundation, District Chair for Northern Lights District BSA, and numerous other committees for events and organizations such as Children's Advocacy Centre.

Among other awards and recognition, David was selected as Class Spokesperson for his class of Leadership Plano Class, Plano Chamber Ambassador of The Year, Committee Member of the Year for the Northwest Suburban Council BSA, and awarded the Distinguished Leadership Award from Leadership Plano. In 2016 David was awarded The AXA Hearts In Action Award which allowed him to direct \$10,000 in donations to local charities.

Platform:

Seniors: As Plano has aged, so has its population as many of those who moved here in the 80's & 90's love the city and wish to retire here. Our decision making for the future must include how to incorporate housing, transportation and amenities to support them.

Smart Development: We've done an exceptional job bringing business and jobs to our community this past 4 years. Both actions help drive our tax revenue upward via the business to business sales taxes and the creation of demand for housing and consumables here in the city.

Revitalization: As our city has aged we've seen an ever increasing need for investment in our neighborhoods in order to help them maintain value. Programs to reward and assist those willing to invest in updating their property have been very successful. Moving ahead it is hopeful that a similar program related to aging multifamily units will experience similar success.

Maintain Our Low Tax Rate: We have seen the increase in property values and the pain it has caused residents. Keeping in mind the fact that the City's share of the tax revenue is only 16% - 19% of the total bill we do an excellent job managing our budget. We cut a penny from the tax bill this past year and hope to see more of that in the future as additional commercial development comes online. Plano has the lowest effective tax rate among all cities in the area.

Public Safety: Plano has the best Fire, Police, EMS and Emergency Response teams in the country. This is possible through a commitment by Council to fund their requirements as well as the great leadership in place.

Water: Our contract with the North Texas Municipal Water District served our area well during the early stage of its existence; however, 6 decades later it MUST be updated to provide for the realities of conservation and population growth far beyond what was anticipated.

Parks & Recreation: Plano's Parks Department is recognized nationally as a Gold Medal Winner for Excellence in Parks Management. Although much of our possible land for parks has been acquired, improvements in existing facilities as well as the completion of others remain on the priority list. Plano is one of the most active cities in the country and our parks help support that.

DAVID L. DOWNS

Libraries: Another area of strength is our Library system which provides a multitude of resources every day to residents of Plano. Visit any of the locations and you will find a beehive of activity and the system continues to add additional online resources.

Diversity: A challenge and an opportunity is the diversity within our City. Engaging the various cultures that exist and pulling together all of them will help us maintain our strength in the future as we compete on a global stage for employment and leadership.

Heritage: The city has many assets within its boundaries worth conserving and recognizing for the role they played in Plano's growth from a small farming community to major suburb to vibrant city it is today. It is important to pursue paths toward preservation for many of those assets.

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?

One of the joys of serving our community is the diversity. Having lived around the world and across the US I've come to highly value the strengths that every member brings to his or her city. I believe that diversity training should include all diverse groups in the city and hopefully with an eye towards what makes them unique and special while at the same time emphasizing that we are all the same.

The Plano Equal Rights Ordinance was updated in December 2014 to add sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, veterans status, and genetic formation to the previous list of protected classes. Explain your support or opposition to retaining the ERO as amended?

I supported the Ordinance and made the motion to approve it. As I said to many at the time, my personal belief is we are not here to judge others but to insure that during our time on this earth every man or woman is treated fairly and recognized for their value in our society. There is no place for discrimination in an advanced society.

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 understand that many people in our community, around the state and across the country are unfortunately distracted by an issue that frankly doesn't need to be addressed. Ultimately, I believe this is more about local versus state/national control than the actual use of a restroom. I am very disappointed that those in favor search far and wide for an example to support their arguments while occurrences of sexual abuse by non-LGBT members occur around them in their communities and current laws are sufficient to prosecute those perpetrators.

Please describe any experience or involvement you have had with LGBT individuals or the LGBT community that has helped shape your viewpoint of LGBT issues.

As a Financial Advisor I have several clients that are part of the LGBT community. As a photographer I had the opportunity to photograph a couple reciting vows before marriage was legal here in Texas and the ceremony was perhaps the most loving and emotional I've ever seen. A dear friend and his wife recently had their daughter come out to them as Transgender and their loving support for their (now) son is such an inspiration for me as a parent. Love is love....that's all there is to it.

Why should members of the LGBT community support your candidacy?

I believe I deserve their support because they are simply citizens in this great community and should be treated no differently than any other. They should have identical rights and responsibilities. As a council member my role should be to uphold those ideals and to make change where our ordinances or policies prevent that from happening.

PLACE 8

RICK SMITH



Phone: 214-707-4575

Email: rick@rickforplano.org

Website: www.rickforplano.org

Facebook: Rick for Plano

Education: -

Occupation: Founder and President of Advanced Home Theater Systems, Inc (AHTS)

Highlights of civic involvement:

Plano Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association
Citizens Assisting Plano Police
Community Emergency Response Team
Plano Citizens Academy, 2016
Collin County Citizens Sheriff's Academy
HOA Board of Directors
HOA Crime Watch Coordinator
Lead – Nextdoor Neighborhood Website
Collin County AARP Chapter 2304, Board of Directors

Platform:

Be responsive to the TAXPAYERS of Plano – you are the boss

Modify Plano Tomorrow Plan to ensure neighborhood friendly developments – not massive high density apartment projects that increase traffic congestion and response times for our public safety providers

Unwavering support for our Police, Fire and First Responders

Ensure financial transparency to make it easy for taxpayers to know where their tax dollars are being spent

Reduce our Effective Tax Rate to provide property tax relief to the citizens of Plano, especially our Senior Citizens

Statement on Hate Crime - Last week I had the opportunity to speak with a group of supporters who expressed their concern about the possibility of Hate Crimes in Plano. We are very fortunate in Plano to be served by one of the finest Police Departments in the Country. As a matter of fact, recent FBI statistics indicate that Plano has had only 13 reported incidents since 2010. Hate or Bias Crimes in Texas are described as those in which the victim was picked due to race, color,.

GALA did not receive a response to its Candidate Questionnaire from Rick Smith.

PLACE 8

STIRLING MORRIS



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Email: stirling@stirlingmorris.com

Website: www.stirlingmorris.com

Facebook: Stirling Morris for Plano City Council

Education: Bachelor of Science in Education, Phillips University

Occupation: Spent the last 15 years in the construction industry, working with developers, architects, and contractors

Highlights of civic involvement:

Construction Specifications Institute Dallas Chapter
U.S. Green Building Council (Organizational Member)
Dallas Museum of Art Ambassador Member
KERA Sustaining Member

(CSI) Construction Specifications Institute (National) Member
CSI (National) Certificate of Merit & Appreciation
CSI Southwest (Regional) Certificate of Appreciation
Volunteer for Habitat for Humanity
U.S. Green Building Council (Individual Member)
American Institute of Architects (Allied Member)
Community Theater (Actor / Director)

Platform:

Economic Development: Continued sound business development decisions, with small and large businesses alike, will ensure economic prosperity for years to come. The economic growth Plano gains from new & existing corporate business relationships, like those with Toyota and FedEx, is felt locally and recognized globally. That said, supporting small & existing local businesses holds merit all its own while honoring the entrepreneurial spirit. Either way, commerce drives economy, and our community flourishes in the wake.

Infrastructure: From new construction to renovation, it's critical to recognize that every neighborhood we develop, every structure we renovate, every road we create, and every resource we utilize depends on laws, codes, & regulations to guide us and keep us safe & connected simultaneously. This continuous improvement effort is as necessary as it is ever-evolving. When we design our infrastructure today, we're building it with tomorrow in mind.

Health: Plano has numerous medical facilities and healthcare providers serving our community. The necessity for them is as much for routine as it is for the unforeseen. With that in mind, there is an ongoing need to have a community-wide focus on our well-being. We have a personal responsibility to stay physically & mentally fit but a civic responsibility to give our community options. From bike trails to recreation centers & parks, we need to maintain amenities which serve as constant reminders to be healthy.

Sustainability & the Environment: It isn't enough just to think sustainably, we have to act accordingly. So long as each of us live, we are stewards of environment. Our recognition and consistent practice of environmental awareness projects, such as Live Green in Plano and our recycling programs, is paramount to the future of both our community and our shared planet. We need to continue our support for these programs while embracing new ones along the way.

Arts & Humanities: With events like ArtFest and the Plano International Festival, we continue to demonstrate an appreciation for the arts and a recognition of our shared world views. Maintaining support of our entertainment & exhibition venues and all of our cultural activities is an important reminder to appreciate each and every part of the diverse world we live in.

STIRLING MORRIS

Education: Although we have local and state school boards to lead this charge, consideration of our community voice is just as important where growing knowledge is concerned. With 94% of Plano ISD graduates pursuing higher education, public school education ensures a sustainable community in which every child is afforded the same opportunities. From primary, secondary, and post-secondary institutions to well-maintained libraries, there is always room for improvement.

Civic Responsibility: With equality at the core, we must continue the support of civil rights actions that improve our laws & protect those who feel their humanity is in question. Until we find better ways to improve the ongoing gender, sexual, marital, and racial inequalities lived daily, we're going to continue to experience the same problems. Each person in Plano has a responsibility to educate themselves and help find ways to respect the diversity of the community-at-large.

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?

With equality at the core, I believe every City Council Member must continuously educate themselves to support actions that improve our laws & protect those who feel their humanity is in question. Moreover, each citizen, civil servant, and employee of Plano has a civic responsibility to educate themselves and help find ways to respect the diversity of the community-at-large.

The Plano Equal Rights Ordinance was updated in December 2014 to add sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, veterans status, and genetic formation to the previous list of protected classes. Explain your support or opposition to retaining the ERO as amended?

Until we find better ways to improve the ongoing gender, sexual orientation, marital, racial, and other inequalities lived daily, we must all stand united in support of the ERO as amended. Otherwise, we're going to continue to experience the same problems over and over and over again.

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.

When we consider that the state of Texas is currently willing to waste a billion plus dollars and lose billions more in potential revenue to keep a person out of the bathroom they were born to go into, we realize that the LGBTQIA community serves a purpose, and I support that purpose with all my heart standing opposed to Texas SB6.

Please describe any experience or involvement you have had with LGBT individuals or the LGBT community that has helped shape your viewpoint of LGBT issues.

My father chose to be a bigot for all my life. He was just as likely to tell a demeaning joke about women to me as he was to make fun of someone's sexual orientation. And although I never followed suit, it wasn't until I escaped to college that I really found out how wonderfully diverse our world can be and how understanding that diversity makes us better people. I am proud to say that some of the greatest life lessons I have experienced have been taught either by or in support of the LGBTQIA community. I continue to hope that others have the same great experiences I've had, and, as Harvey Milk said it best, that "Hope will never be silent."

Why should members of the LGBT community support your candidacy?

As an elected City Council official, I will be as equally proactive, where equality is concerned, as I am reactive. The LGBTQIA community and everything it represents is a nonpartisan issue.