

**PRESTON HOLLOW DEMOCRATS – DALLAS CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE
QUESTIONNAIRE**

Candidate Name: Jaynie Schultz

Council District: 11

- 1. Describe your experiences and skills that have prepared you to be a member of the Dallas City Council, and on what committees would you like to serve to best use those skills and experiences.**

I have served as the City Plan Commissioner since 2014 (Vice Chair 2019-2020) for District 11 as well as the interim for almost every district in Dallas during my tenure. I know the district; I know the city and I know how to get things done in City Hall by working with city staff. I chaired the Urban Design Advisory Committee which oversees all city plans. I have also served as a member of the Welcoming Communities Task force since its inception as well as the Market Values Committee, which set the conditions for recommendation on housing.

Since stepping down from CPC to run for office, I remain on the Building Blocks Committee for Esperanza and am in the strategic planning committee for the Valley View/Galleria redevelopment.

Additionally, I have served in a leadership capacity for over 20 non-profit board and am currently the Board Chair for the CityLab High School Foundation, a new DISD high school downtown.

I can serve effectively on any council committee and though I have an expertise in affordable housing and urban planning, I am ready to serve on any committee.

- 2. What are your top three priorities if you are elected to City Council?**

In addition to working on key issues for the district and city such as public safety, infrastructure repair, affordable housing, panhandling and homelessness, the three projects below are priorities.

As a councilmember my priorities will be to work well with my colleagues so we can move this city forward. The importance of this cannot be overstated. Too much time and attention is often wasted on intra-council bickering. I effectively helped change the culture on CPC to make it one of the least political, highest functioning commissions and will do the same with council. One of the first steps I took as a commissioner was to ask each of my fellow commissioners to take me on a tour of their district so I could see it through their eyes. This changed our perception and relationship. I will do the same on council.

Additionally, District 11 has been weak in communication with district residents. Reimagining how we connect with residents and help residents connect with each other will be a high priority. For example, as several people pointed out, why is there not a massive text communication system in place? Have we identified neighborhood leaders willing to take responsibility to make sure everyone in a certain area has the resources they need and knows what is going on? Etc.

Finally, I will help build neighborhood resilience and capacity through existing neighborhood organizations and other non-profits in the district.

3. We are a Democratic club. Would the Democratic party platform and values inform your service on the Dallas City Council, and if so, how?

I believe strongly that city council should not be partisan. I am not seeking party endorsements for that reason. I do believe that the values of the Democratic party are in line with my personal values and the values I was raised to support.

4. What changes would you support to Dallas city government, including the police department, to enhance public safety in our community?

I believe the council ought to work closely with the police chief and all department leaders to set their goals and priorities and help them be successful through our policy decisions. We are also charged with helping through building local resources for the police. For example, I believe local residents can assist in public safety through local volunteers in patrol, enhanced security when possible and volunteering for police programs such as Unidos.

5. Homelessness is an increasing problem in our community and has become more visible in our council district. What do you believe is the best way to address this problem, both from the perspective of the persons experiencing homelessness and the surrounding community?

I believe the first step is to decouple homelessness and panhandling. People who are homeless are often blamed for the behavior of panhandlers. Our job is to provide permanent supportive housing for those in need which include wraparound services for mental health etc. In speaking with hundreds of residents as part of my campaign I know the compassion for those who are homeless remains and can be leveraged to help the people in need. The key will be to separate those in need from those who are opportunists.

6. Our community was hit hard by the tornados in 2019 and has yet to recover. Homes and property were recently damaged by the severe winter weather. Does the City have a role in assisting with recovery, and if so, would you advocate for this and what would be your recommendations?

The City absolutely has a responsibility to assist with recovery. That is why having a robust neighborhood level resilience program is essential. When crises hit, we must be ready to help each other by having in advance the knowledge of resources as well as a strong communication plan. City officials must lead both efforts, including pressuring resources such as insurance companies and state and national leaders to assist.

7. Have you reviewed the City budget? If so, what is your biggest concern and what would be your proposed solution to that concern?

I have met with Elizabeth Reich for a tutorial on the budget as well as attended Councilman Kleinman's budget reviews for commissioners. In my opinion, a part of our responsibility is to focus on income as well as expense. Are we missing opportunities to being in revenue? I do not believe that any entity can "cut" its way to a balanced budget.

One of the biggest areas to investigate will be sanitation. Millions of dollars are spent on alley and fence repair because our sanitation trucks are too large for the older alleys. That is a real opportunity.