

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance Announces Its 2011 Candidate Endorsements

Fair-Minded Candidates Endorsed for Dallas City Council & Dallas Mayor

(Dallas, Texas) The Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance (DGLA) is pleased to announce its 2011 endorsed candidates for Dallas City Council. DGLA is the oldest and only NON-PARTISAN organization advocating for the civil rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) people in Dallas, and since 1977 DGLA has actively endorsed candidates in Dallas municipal elections.

In a series of meetings during March and April 2011, members of the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance Political Action Committee (DGLA PAC) reviewed questionnaires and conducted personal interviews with candidates for Dallas City Council who sought the DGLA PAC endorsement. The DGLA PAC elected to conduct full candidate screenings (including questionnaire and personal interview) in Dallas City Council races, and made no recommendations in districts where candidates did not respond to or complete the endorsement process and/or have no past history of endorsement by DGLA.

The Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance (DGLA) Board of Directors voted on the recommendations of its PAC, and proudly endorses the following candidates for the 2011 Dallas City Council:

DGLA's 2011 Endorsed Candidates for Dallas City Council

- District 1 – Delia Jasso
- District 2 – Pauline Medrano
- District 3 – Scott Griggs
- District 6 – Luis Sepulveda
- District 7 – Casie Pierce
- District 9 – Sheffie Kadane, Jr.
- District 10 – Jerry Allen
- District 11 – Linda Koop
- District 13 – Ann Margolin
- District 14 – Angela Hunt
- District 15 / Mayor – Ron Natinsky

In an extremely rare decision, the DGLA PAC voted to recommend a warning for one candidate for Dallas Mayor, and the DGLA Board voted it forward. A “warning” is an indicator to GLBT voters that the DGLA PAC has significant serious concerns about a candidate’s position on issues affecting the GLBT community and thus recommends that GLBT voters should not vote for the candidate.

District 15 / Mayor – Mike Rawlings. **WARNING:** Mr. Rawlings’ passion for commerce and business interests supremely overwhelms his appreciation for the civil rights of all people.

"As with every municipal election cycle, DGLA invites all candidates for Dallas City Council to participate in our endorsement process, and the 2011 cycle is no exception in the positive response we've had from candidates," said Patti Fink, president of DGLA. "Increasingly, successful candidates recognize that the GLBT community in Dallas is a vibrant and vital constituency, that we live in all Districts in our city, that we vote, and that our support for their campaigns can be the difference between an election night victory party and a sad Saturday evening, or a spot in a run-off election."

"For over 30 years, Dallas GLBT voters have looked to DGLA to screen and vet Dallas City Council candidates on issues of importance to our community, and to let them know how best to cast their votes," Fink noted. "Within each race, we strive to select the best qualified candidate with the best record and the most predictive potential on issues affecting our community who can be elected," Fink added. "When there is more than one candidate who meets the standards for our endorsement and all things being otherwise equal between them, then sexual orientation and gender identity become important in assisting us with the decision."

"With no openly LGBT members currently on the Dallas City Council, we feel strongly that support and advocacy on LGBT issues are key qualities in our endorsed candidates," noted Damien Duckett, DGLA secretary and the 2011 DGLA PAC Chair. "Our PAC carefully considers many factors and diligently vets candidates before making its recommendations to the DGLA Board. We expect experience and qualifications for office, as well as vision and commitment to district concerns, but we also weigh personal and interpersonal strengths and weaknesses, knowledge of and an appreciation for the LGBT community, the level of past and current involvement in the LGBT community, and viability."

The PAC made its recommendations based on the following factors:

- Public statements made by the candidate
- A written questionnaire completed by the candidate
- Private and confidential interview between each candidate and a panel of PAC members
- Input from members of the LGBT community and other sources at large.

Following the interviews and input process, the PAC made its endorsement decisions, and forwarded its recommendations to the DGLA Board of Directors for consideration. In both steps of the process, any PAC or Board member who has provided any type of support (financial donation, personal endorsement, volunteer time, or campaign employment) to a candidate at any time during the 2011 election cycle exercised a duty to recuse him/herself during voting for that District's endorsement.

For its scope in this election cycle, the PAC chose to conduct full candidate screenings for all filed candidates for Dallas City Council. Filed candidates were invited to participate in the DGLA PAC endorsement process, and each received a candidate packet with the written questionnaire and an invitation to schedule a screening interview via mail and/or email, with follow-ups via email and phone.

Of the PAC's recommended warning on Dallas mayoral candidate Mike Rawlings, Fink said, "It is a very rare thing in our 34 years of endorsing candidates. Candidate interviews are confidential, but I think it's important to note that PAC members felt very strongly that their extensive exchanges with Mr. Rawlings on topics relating to city contracts were troubling enough to warrant a warning to GLBT voters."

"DGLA is extremely proud of our endorsed candidates, and we will be working to support their campaigns through Election Day on May 14th and any run-off elections on June 18th," Fink said. "While voter turn-out is typically low for Dallas municipal elections, we are confident that active GLBT voters will be going to the polls in this election to ensure that fair-minded leaders sit at the horseshoe at Dallas City Hall."

For more detailed information on the DGLA PAC candidate endorsement process & response, and the DGLA endorsed candidates, please refer to the [attached pages](#) and/or visit the DGLA website at www.dallasgla.org

Since 1977, the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance (DGLA) has been the premier local voice for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) civil rights in the Dallas metropolitan area. The mission of the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance is to advocate, educate and empower in order to achieve LGBT equality and the full participation of all people in society. The Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance is a 501(c)(4) organization, and the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance Political Action Committee is a registered PAC. The Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance Don Baker Education Fund is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

2011 Dallas City Council Endorsed Candidates – DGLA PAC

District 1 Delia Jasso

Within months of beginning her first term on the council, Delia organized an informal GLBT task force of community leaders to focus on advocacy for specific City of Dallas issues affecting the GLBT community. She has aggressively advocated for our community at Dallas City Hall, Dallas ISD, and DART, and has been a strong voice for all District 1 residents & businesses. Her efforts during her first term have had a significant impact on the GLBT community and her District, and DGLA is proud to reaffirm its endorsement of Delia Jasso in this election cycle. District 1 voters should send this dynamic advocate and ally back to City Hall for a second term.

Candidate Participation UNOPPOSED

District 2 Pauline Medrano

Seeking re-election to a 4th term, Pauline has been a vigilant advocate for District 2 residents and for the GLBT community, working with city staff and community leaders to improve quality of life issues and economic development. Pauline's hardworking style has made her an asset not only to the GLBT community but also to her District. With the community's entertainment area split squarely between District 2 and 14, Pauline has worked closely with community leaders and others to improve public safety, quality of life, and other issues affecting residents and business owners. DGLA proudly endorses Pauline for a 4th and final term of service at Dallas City Hall.

Candidate Participation Completed Process: Billy MacLeod; "Shamrock" Keith McPhail

District 3 Scott Griggs

Scott has an exceptional history of working hard on behalf of the people in District 3, including his GLBT neighbors. He is committed to seeing his District rejoin the effort for continued improvement of our city's southern sector. As a small business owner, Scott has a great understanding of the challenges faced by the District in economic growth, and is determined to work hard to foster the type of growth and development that will revitalize District 3 and generate a greater quality of life. He has served a president of Stevens Park Estates Neighborhood Association and the Fort Worth Avenue Development Group, with service as well on the City of Dallas Board of Adjustment, the Oak Cliff Chamber of Commerce and the Oak Cliff Transit Authority. Scott understands strength in diversity, and has an active appreciation for the vitality of GLBT residents and business owners in his District. District 3 voters should propel this young progressive advocate forward with their votes for Scott Griggs on May 14th.

Candidate Participation Completed Process: Dave Neumann

2011 Dallas City Council Endorsed Candidates – DGLA PAC

District 6 Luis Sepulveda

Vying for the open seat in District 6, Luis has been a long-time public servant, serving as a Dallas County Justice of the Peace for 10 years, and a lifelong resident and advocate of District 6. He founded the West Dallas Coalition for Environmental Justice in 1989 and co-founded the West Dallas Baseball Team and the Latin American Baseball Association. His passion for community service in his District and in Dallas County has led him to serve in many organizations and garnered him appointments to boards such as the Dallas County Hospital District, the City of Dallas Library Board, and others, as well as awards for his service and advocacy. Luis believes in the strength of diversity, and we look forward to his advocacy for GLBT equality at the horseshoe.

Candidate Participation *Response after the endorsement process had concluded:* Monica Alonzo

NO RESPONSE: Norberto Ornelas

District 7 Casie Pierce

In her first run for public office, Casie has found significant name recognition and support throughout District 7 based on her long history of grassroots activism in her community. Casie has been visible and known in her District for her work in the Parkdale/Lawnview Association of Neighbors (PLAN), the Trinity Commons Foundation, and her passionate leadership as Executive Director of Groundworks Dallas, a non-profit organization dedicated to community partnerships with neighborhoods and businesses to nurture and promote the Great Trinity Forest and its gateway communities. A seasoned grant writer, Casie has also served as Executive Director of the McKinney Avenue Transit Authority and the Vickery Meadow Public Improvement District, and has served her community with appointments to the City of Dallas Environmental Health Commission, Dallas ISD Citizen's Council, Southeast Dallas Economic Development Task Force, DART Southeast Corridor Community Work Group, and many others. A Registered Veterinary Nurse by profession, Casie is also the first openly gay candidate to run for Dallas City Council from District 7. As an out lesbian, Casie will bring a valuable understanding of issues affecting the GLBT community to the council. DGLA wholeheartedly endorses Casie Pierce, and District 7 voters should elect this vibrant community-focused go-getter to represent them at Dallas City Hall.

Candidate Participation *NO RESPONSE:* Carolyn Davis

Declined To Participate: Helene McKinney

2011 Dallas City Council Endorsed Candidates – DGLA PAC

District 9 Sheffie Kadane, Jr.

As a native and lifelong resident of District 9, Sheffie brings a long track record of service to the City of Dallas, including service on the Dallas Park and Recreation Board and the Board of Adjustment, and he currently serves as Vice-Chair of the council's Transportation & Environment Committee. He has a longtime involvement with White Rock Lake and the Dallas Arboretum, and continues to work with district residents on issues affecting these Dallas gems. Sheffie is a supporter of LGBT equality and fair-minded governance at Dallas City Hall, and has included GLBT individuals in his appointments to boards and commissions. Sheffie merits District 9 votes for a third term at Dallas City Hall, and DGLA proudly supports Sheffie Kadane for re-election.

Candidate Participation NO RESPONSE: Kirk Launius, Robert Foster

District 10 Jerry Allen

Seeking his 3rd term in office, Jerry Allen clearly understands the enormous diversity within his District and the many challenges facing District 10 residents. A banker by profession, Jerry ably chairs the council's Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee and, prior to joining the Dallas City Council in 2007, he served on the DART Board of Directors. Jerry offers both a "big picture" and a detailed view of his District's needs, and recognizes the many socioeconomic disparities among his constituents throughout this northeast Dallas district. He is committed to inclusiveness in solutions, and we believe he will be an able supporter of GLBT equality at Dallas City Hall. This is the first time since he was elected to the Dallas City Council in 2007 that Jerry has sought the DGLA endorsement, and we are proud to give it to him.

Candidate Participation Completed Process: Cynthia Durbin

District 11 Linda Koop

A past DGLA endorsee, Linda deserves a fourth term at Dallas City Hall. With a long track record as a smart hard-working representative for District 11 and for the city, Linda has been a supporter of LGBT equality on the council as well as with agencies serving the City of Dallas, Dallas County, and DART. Linda brings a long rich history of leadership in Dallas, and she merits a final term at Dallas City Hall.

Candidate Participation UNOPPOSED

2011 Dallas City Council Endorsed Candidates – DGLA PAC

District 13 Ann Margolin

Seeking her second term on the council, Ann has very ably represented her constituents in District 13, and has worked tirelessly to unite District residents behind issues common to all through neighborhood events and strong constituent services. As Vice-Chair of the council's Budget, Finance & Audit Committee, Ann has been a studious advocate for fiscal vigilance in tough economic times, with an eye on economic development, public safety, and quality of life issues. With many GLBT homeowners and residents in her District and across the city, Ann is an eager student on issues affecting the GLBT community and we look forward to her supportive stand with our community in her second term. DGLA proudly endorses Ann Margolin in District 13.

Candidate Participation *Began process but did not complete:* Richard Sheridan

District 14 Angela Hunt

Seeking her 4th term at Dallas City Hall, Angela Hunt has stood firmly and proudly not only with the GLBT community but also with concerned citizens across the City of Dallas on issues of importance to all, even and especially when such stands have been out of favor or downright unpopular with the Dallas establishment. DGLA has enormous confidence in Angela's proven well-known record of diligent study, knowledge of issues, working relationships with District constituents and fellow council members, and full engagement on issues. Angela has consistently made doing the right thing for her District and for the City of Dallas her sole rudder in every decision, and her personal involvement in neighborhood and community issues underscores her commitment to her constituents. Angela has a strong history of appointing LGBT constituents to boards & commissions, and she is a visible sustaining presence at LGBT community events, large and small. While considering a possible mayoral run may have prematurely drawn hopefuls for her District 14 seat, Angela clearly merits a fourth and final full term at Dallas City Hall, and with great pride DGLA again wholeheartedly endorses Angela Hunt for District 14.

Candidate Participation *Completed process:* James Nowlin
NO RESPONSE: Brian Oley, Vernon Franko

2011 Dallas City Council Endorsed Candidates – DGLA PAC

District 15 Ron Natinsky
Mayor

With a very able and competitive field for Dallas Mayor this cycle, three-term Dallas City Councilmember Ron Natinsky is our pick to lead the council and to represent our city locally, nationally, & internationally. DGLA has endorsed Ron in his two previous runs for the District 12 seat, and he has sought our endorsement in all three cycles. As an entrepreneur several times over and a Dallas resident throughout his adult life, Ron brings strong recent first-hand experience on Dallas issues with a unique balanced blend of “the people who live here” focus and a keen eye for drawing new economic development and visitors to the City of Dallas. This approach, along with Ron’s pragmatic yet personable and inclusive style, is what Dallas needs in a new mayor. Ron has been engaged with our community and supportive of GLBT concerns throughout his time on the council, and we believe that Ron brings not only a strong depth of understanding of issues and goals for improving the lives of GLBT Dallasites, but also creative solutions to achieve lasting fairness for all in the City’s relations with our community and the way it does business internally and externally. Ron has been an accessible inclusive leader in his District and he will be a dynamic, thoughtful, and engaging leader for all Dallas residents and business owners. DGLA is very proud to endorse Ron Natinsky for Dallas Mayor.

<i>Candidate Participation</i>	<i>Completed process:</i>	David Kunkle, Mike Rawlings
	<i>NO RESPONSE:</i>	E. Edward Okpa
	<i>WARNING –</i>	Mr. Rawlings’ passion for commerce and
	<i>Mike Rawlings:</i>	business interests supremely overwhelms his
		appreciation for the civil rights of all people.
