



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

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

MAYOR

**BOB ALLEN
JEFF CHENEY**

PLACE 5

**CHRIS KING
TIM NELSON**

PLACE 6

**KD WARACH
BOBBY ROBERTI
JASON ABATI
RUI ZHANG
BRIAN LIVINGSTON**

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

BOB ALLEN



Phone: -

Email: boballen-frisco@tx.rr.com

Website: www.boballenforfrisco.com

Facebook: Bob Allen – Working Together For Frisco

Education: Computer Programming from Southern Ohio College

Occupation: Director of Business Applications and Business Process Improvement Strategies, Frisco ISD

Highlights of civic involvement:

City Council Information Technology Committee - 2003-2007
Tax Increment Finance Board - 2002-2007, 2009 - present
Frisco Ethics Ad-Hoc Committee Chairman - 2008 - 2009
Mayor Pro Tem - 2014 - 2015
Deputy Mayor Pro-Tem - 2006-2007, 2009-2010
Collin County Bond Committee - 2003
Frisco Economic Development Corporation (FEDC) - 2000-2009; Chairman / Vice Chairman - 2002-2009
Frisco Education Foundation (FEF) - 2002-2009; President - 2004-2005
Frisco United Methodist Church (FUMC) - 1995-present; member of various administrative boards
Frisco Area Republicans - member 2009 - present
Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons - 1980 - present
Youth Sports Coach, 1992-2000
Heritage Association of Frisco, life-time member
Custer Creek Homeowners Association, officer - 1994-1999; President - 1996-1998
Inside Collin County Business, One of 21 Leaders of the 21st Century - 2006
Frisco Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year 2010
Samaritan Inn of Collin County, Board Member 2014 - present; Finance Committee 2014 - present; Nomination Committee 2015 - present; Executive Advisory Committee 2016 - present

Platform: Ensure Transparency and Accountability in the Budgeting Process
Keep Taxes Low While Still Providing High Quality Services
Drive Corporate Business Development and Entrepreneurial Opportunities
Expand Infrastructure, Protect Natural Resources and Improve Roadways
Advocate for Responsible Economic Development and Job Growth
Diverse Housing and Balanced Multi-Family Zoning
Prioritize Public Safety and Health
Maximize Property Development Investments
Preserve and Improve Quality of Life for Frisco Families
Foster An Environment of Collaborative Communication To Solve Problems and Create New Opportunities for Progress

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 support anti-discrimination training in any area necessary.

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?

Business owners should not be told what to do. The free market should decide.

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 am opposed to discrimination in any form.

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 am opposed to discrimination in any form.

Why should members of the LGBT community support your candidacy?

I'm running because I love this community and the people I serve. Frisco has seen great change in the past 25 years and I have been honored to be a part of the success. I have been fully invested in this community and I have a passionate vision for the future. In addition to serving the citizens of this community for 13 of the last 15 years on the Frisco City Council, I have served on numerous committees, boards, and regional initiatives. I have served as 9 years on the Frisco Economic Development Corporation Board, including most of that time as Chairman and Vice-Chairman, 7 years on the Frisco Education Foundation Board, including most of that time as President and Vice-President. I currently serve as a member of the Samaritan Inn of Collin County and The Medical City Plano/ Medical City Frisco Boards. I have spent most of my professional career as a leader at EDS/HP and now at the FISD. I have 35 years of experience leading organizations, driving vision for change, and delivering successful results, while providing large scale financial management. As a public servant to the citizens of Frisco, I am committed to our quality development, establishing positive public/private partnerships that provide winning projects, and maintaining my conservative approach. I take great pride in our accomplishments and believe I have been a contributor to our success. I have selflessly served on numerous boards and associations to improve the community, while never enriching myself through this service. I believe our community will best benefit from a true servant leader.



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MAYOR

JEFF CHENEY



Phone: -
Email: jeff@choosecheney.com
Website: www.choosecheney.com
Facebook: Jeff Cheney for Frisco

Education: Bachelor in Business Administration, Masters in Professional Accounting, University of Texas - Austin

Occupation: Owner, The Cheney Group, Real Estate Agency

Highlights of civic involvement:

9 Year City Council Member.
4 Time Mayor Pro Tem/Deputy Mayor Pro Tem
Frisco Small Business of the Year 2015
Budget and Audit Committee Chair
Frisco's Technology Committee
Mayor's Youth Council Liaison
Frisco Education Foundation Board Member

Platform:

PUBLIC SAFETY - Commitment to public safety has always been Priority #1 for Frisco, and myself whilst helping lead our city. I will continue my commitment to giving Frisco Police and Fire departments the resources they require to keep our community safe.

FINANCIAL HEALTH - My background as a CPA and Registered Investment Adviser has given me the necessary tools to steer the City of Frisco toward fiscally conservative budgets, even during economic downturns. Carefully navigating the economic downturn positioned Frisco to take advantage of opportunities at the upturn -- the results we are now seeing through the development of the \$5 billion mile and more.

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT - I have a passion to steer Frisco away from the typical "cookie-cutter" grid designs. My goal is to encourage more master-planned communities that bring unique designs and interesting architecture. These designs are more sustainable and will help make Frisco a destination for generations to come. The undeveloped northern areas of our city have many natural characteristics including creeks and elevation changes. I feel these areas should be protected for larger lots and unique neighborhood concepts. I am committed to creating neighborhoods that will maintain their appeal for generations. I have long been an advocate for reducing our apartments in Frisco. I feel apartments should be restricted to mixed-use developments such as Frisco Square, Wade Park, and Frisco Junction. In these environments, they are typically more thoughtfully and sustainably constructed, and are more desirable, with access to favorable amenities.

SUSTAINABILITY - As we build new parks and neighborhoods, we cannot forget about our aging amenities, parks, and infrastructure, and must always consider the need for reinvestment in our city. I believe having a strong central core through Historic Downtown, and connecting that development, over the railroad tracks, with Frisco Square, will be an integral measurement toward long-term sustainability.

JEFF CHENEY

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - In 1991, Frisco voters made the commitment to use sales tax revenue for economic development. This commitment has assisted with recruitment of much of what you see in Frisco today including Stonebriar Mall and all of our office and commercial locations. In addition to continuing these efforts, my focus will be to attract a Fortune 100 company as well as other brand employers to fill the \$5 Billion mile. As a steward of your tax dollars, I am also passionate about getting something in return for our investments. Rather than allocating them toward simply increasing density, I would like to see them used to facilitate more unique commercial design that incorporates green space and other amenities that our residents are requesting. Winning Stonebriar Mall on Frisco's side of 121 was a huge triumph for Frisco. I know how important it is to have that same victory along 380, our northern border. Protecting the sales tax and economic development on the Frisco side of 380 will be a priority of mine.

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT - It is critical Frisco creates commercial clusters, starting with the \$5 Billion mile to the south, developing a strong central core with Frisco Square and the Historic Downtown, and winning prime development along 380. My real estate background has played a critical role in our development thus far and my experience can help shape the future of our development landscape. Protecting the 380 corridor to ensure the most appealing developments are on the Frisco side will be a critical success factor for Frisco's future. I would like to see an emphasis on bringing vitality back to Downtown Frisco. I believe that is going to happen by bringing adjacent developments that will join the newest area of Frisco Square across the railroad tracks to Historic Downtown. As that continues to happen, developers will begin reinvesting in the historic parts of Frisco bringing vitality to the area while maintaining our small town feel. Over the years, Frisco has done a great job bringing destinations such as Toyota Stadium, Dr Pepper Stadium and Stars Center, and The Star. Now I would like to see more commercial development surround these amenities to create thriving entertainment districts in Frisco.

ARTS & LEISURE - While Frisco has certainly grown a well-deserved reputation for excellence in sports, our facilities allow us to bring much more to Frisco than just sports. We have the benefit of terrific concert venues bringing major talent, and shows, right here in our backyard. I would love to see a live music venue that would help bring energy and vitality to a commercial development. Our Frisco Arts community is also very passionate about bringing a facility to Frisco. While studies are on going to discover the best fit for Frisco, I feel the best way to make this dream a reality is to follow the success model of a public-private partnership that is privately funded and operated. I also believe such a facility would be best served as a traffic draw to a larger commercial development. This type of dynamic facility can help anchor a unique commercial development and entertainment district to the benefit of all.

CIVIC INVOLVEMENT - I feel strongly that our city is not just a collection of buildings, roads, or houses – it is defined by our citizens. We currently spend a great deal of time each year interviewing candidates for our boards and commissions. Each year, I am amazed at the level of talent and willingness to serve our community that is shown by all of these Frisco citizens. Due to the limited number of positions open each year, many qualified candidates are not appointed each year. I want to continue to find ways to keep these citizens plugged in and contributing to our city that we all love.

INFRASTRUCTURE - One of the biggest concerns I hear from our residents regarding our growth is the increase in traffic. I feel we can get cars off the road by creating more walk-able developments and focus on mixed-use developments where people can live where they work or walk to amenities and retail rather than always relying on their car. I am also a proponent of leveraging technology as the future of traffic management. This includes improving tools we are already using such as managing stop light timing and unique road designs such as roundabouts, while also being on the leading edge of emerging technologies. As a technology advocate, my goal is for Frisco to be the nation's most technologically advanced city. Public private partnerships such as Uber, can be operated at a far lower cost, forever changing how people move about the city while actually providing a better service to our residents.

PARKS - I was a champion of shifting our park philosophy from incorporating various types of fields at each master park to having each park incorporate a specialty use. This led to the decision of expanding the baseball fields at Bacchus rather than build them at a new park. By grouping assets, we generate more tax revenue from hosting local tournaments while creating a better experience for our families that have multiple children playing various sports. I am also passionate about promoting active lifestyles. In the past, I have been supportive of niche parks such as the Dog Park, the Skate Park, Hope Park, and the Bike Trail. These types of parks help bring our residents to a park they may have otherwise never utilized. I am passionate about preserving the dream and vision of Grand Park, something I feel should live up to its name. Showing the commitment of dedicating some of the city's most valuable real estate as dynamic park space, will forever symbolize the heart of Frisco. The lake, trails system, kids area, and green space for large events will be a valuable amenity for our residents and attract dynamic connections with the commercial corner.

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 business owner and employer, I support comprehensive diversity training for employees. It is not about “political correctness” or sensitivity but simply about helping staff have the information and training they need to succeed in a global marketplace. I personally am already active in participation with cultural, social, and ethnic communities which are different from my own background, and plan to continue to engage with ALL constituents.

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?

The Obergefell case is the law of the land. I think that the wave of pushback is a natural response to a large, ground-breaking decision, unseen in the US before. Regardless, I do not believe any of these laws are under the domain of municipal government to legislate. Just as I want to see state, county and federal officials stay out of city business, I also want to stay out of theirs.

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 do not believe we have seen any reason to change our existing ordinances and do not support ordinances that are not enforceable. I support private business to freely choose how to serve their customers. For public facilities, privacy is of utmost importance.

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 that minimizing discrimination, with the goal of eliminating it, will not be a function of employment law but a function of culture. Plenty of organizations still experience problems that technically there are laws “against.” I believe that the way I will assist in creating a superior culture where discrimination is a non-issue, is to be part of the process as we hire new senior city staff to replace those who are retiring soon. Frisco is an attractive destination for municipal workers and I believe we stay that way by adopting fresh ideas in management, leadership and employee development.

Why should members of the LGBT community support your candidacy?

I was first elected to Frisco City Council at age 32. Despite this 9 years of experience, if elected in May, I will still be the youngest mayor Frisco has had in decades. I have the presence, experience, temperament, and ethics to be the best leader for a growing global city. As an employer, business owner, and proven problem solver, I believe I am the best suited to navigate a changing political climate without falling prey to “the way it’s always been.”

PLACE 5

CHRIS KING



Phone: -
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Website: www.chriskingforfrisco.com
Facebook: Chris King for Frisco

Education: Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science, Drake University; Master of Arts degree in Practical Theology, Regent University

Occupation: Business Solutions Specialist, Microsoft Corporation; Senior Pastor, Christ's Living Kingdom Church

Highlights of civic involvement:

As a pastor, Chris has focused on encouraging others to practically demonstrate their faith through compassionate service in their daily lives. Chris has also been an influential leader and advocate for bridging cultural, economic, generational, and racial gaps within the Church and various communities—recently publishing a book on the topic of cultural unity within the Church.

Platform:

INFRASTRUCTURE FOR GROWTH - As we continue to grow, it's imperative that our infrastructure can support the growth. Many cities have taken a reactive approach to their infrastructure concerns. It's important that we properly plan and proactively make adjustments to our current roads, water & power systems so our infrastructure becomes an asset and not a liability. It's also important that we review current systems and seek more advanced and creative ways to increase our capacity to adequately service our growing community.

PUBLIC SAFETY - Maintaining the safety of our communities must remain a top priority. To do this, we must ensure our police and fire departments have the resources necessary to do their jobs. As they pursue various emergency prevention techniques, they must be properly trained and prepared to handle any emergency that arises. Furthermore, as citizens, we also play an important role in ensuring the safety of our emergency personnel.

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT AND TRANSPARENCY - Frisco is a multi-cultural, multi-economical, and multi-generational community. This alone provides management challenges. It's important our leadership and community representation reflects our communities. We must be proactive in seeking and valuing the ideas of our citizens. We must create a variety of methods to engage our citizens.

FAMILY/COMMUNITY CULTURE - One of the major attractions of Frisco has been its focus on family and community. This is what makes Frisco. We must not make such a fervent pursuit to economic and urban growth to the point that we lose ourselves. Let's grow our culture with our city!

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 Will proactively work with all members of the community to understand their needs and concerns. I feel it is imperative that all employees receive diversity training.

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 don't believe that any business should be allowed to refuse anyone service based on race, creed, sex, color, or sexual preference. I would not support any ordinance or law that allows this.

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 support SB6. However I believe that it should take into account individuals that have successfully made a sexual transition.

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?

We should include these groups in our standard EE policy statements.

Why should members of the LGBT community support your candidacy?

I believe that all citizens should feel safe and valued in their environment. I also am committed to listening to our citizens and understanding those issues that affect them. And I will do so with the LGBT community as well.



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PLACE 5

TIM NELSON



Phone: 972-898-8461

Email: tim@votefortim.org

Website: www.votefortim.org

Facebook: Tim H. Nelson, Frisco Deputy Mayor Pro Tem

Education: Bachelor of Arts in Administrative Studies, University of California - Riverside

Occupation: Real Estate Entrepreneur and Investor Keller Williams; Officer in the United States Army Reserve

Highlights of civic involvement:

Frisco Charter Review Committee

Smith Elementary PTA

Hillcrest-Lebanon HOA Board of Directors

Heritage Association of Frisco

Frisco Veterans Advisory Committee

Frisco VFW

FISD Independent Study Mentorship Program Mentor

Boy Scouts of America

Platform:

My goal is to become a true representative of the people. I've developed many strong relationships over my 12 years in Frisco. Most importantly, I listen to what is happening in my neighbors' lives and understand what is important to them. I reach out to all that have an issue or concern whether I agree or disagree with their opinion. My goal is to champion the will of the people and find compromise and consensus among the council. Nothing is more important than ensuring the safety and security of those that choose to live and work in Frisco.

Top three goals/priorities for Frisco:

1. Maintain a safe and secure community by ensuring our fire and police departments continue to be fully trained and equipped.
2. Foster efficient transportation through and around our city (roads and hike and bike)
3. Encourage realistic and stable growth by attracting quality corporate citizens as well as be a hotbed for upstarts and family businesses.

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 think it is important for all elected officials and city employees to educate themselves regarding the community that they serve. No matter what the business, it is critical that one "know their audience." The residents of Frisco come from all over the country and all over the world. They are comprised of people of different cultures, religions, ethnicities, sexual orientations and gender identities. For the City of Frisco to be successful, the city and her representatives and staff must familiarize themselves and understand the make up of all members of the community. Personally, I will continue to engage with the many different demographics in Frisco. Some by attendance at events and gatherings, others by participating as a member of their groups or organizations. Lastly, I think it is critical to continually reach out and not fear change! Our community is much different than it was when I first moved here 18 years ago. Frisco has been very inclusive and the change in the community has been a change for the better.

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 am not currently aware that ANY constituents have been treated unequally by businesses in Frisco. Should there be any instances of discrimination, I would want to be made aware of it and ensure that the business become compliant with the law of the land.

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 do not support such legislation and personally believe that it is a "solution looking for a problem." I am not aware of any instances within Frisco in which transgender member or member of the opposite gender of the gender listed on the bathroom committed an assault or endangered a minor, or other individual. Most modern facilities currently have a "unisex" or "family" bathroom. This can be used by any gender. In addition, I am not aware of any local ordinance or law that mandates that one use one bathroom or another.

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 am not aware of any discrimination by the City of Frisco in regards to the hiring, firing, and promotions of city employees. The best way to ensure that this does not happen is to educate city personnel in fair hiring, firing, and promotion practices. In addition, city personnel should be properly educated regarding the diversity of our community and embrace all that is Frisco.

Why should members of the LGBT community support your candidacy?

Members of the LGBT community should support my campaign because of my record of fairness, my approachability, my understanding and acceptance of all members of our community. I've been active in many community groups and lend an ear to all that call upon me. I take what I hear from the residents of Frisco and do my best to represent all residents with the decisions I make and the votes I take. While I'm a member of the city council, Frisco will be inclusive! I grew up in California where diversity and understanding within the community was common place. Our nation has only been made stronger over time by being inclusive. "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,..," this is what America is about. It is about ensuring that everyone has a place in this land of the free! I'm proud to be Jewish, a minority religion comprised of approximately 2% of the United States population. As a religion, Judaism practices understanding, acceptance and the importance of fighting for the rights of all peoples.

PLACE 6

KD WARACH



Phone: (469) 309-1467

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Website: www.warach4frisco.com

Facebook: K.D. Warach

Education: BS in Civil Engineering, University of Nevada - Reno

Occupation: Civil Engineer - Vice President at Atkins North America

Highlights of civic involvement:

- Licensed Professional Engineer (PE)
- Youth soccer coach, Frisco Soccer Association
- Member, American Society of Civil Engineers
- Public speaker at Frisco ISD Career Day
- Graduate, Leadership Academy
- Certified Public Manager (CPM)
- Speaker and presenter at various conferences nationwide
- Volunteer for local, state and national political campaigns
- Organizer of several multicultural events to promote and celebrate diversity throughout the region

Platform:

My platform includes standing with the working people, income equality, fair tax structure where wealthy and corporations pay their fair share, equal rights for everyone, top notch public schools for our children and diversity for people of all races, religions, genders and sexual orientations.

Make Frisco a vibrant community where everyone feels welcome to live, work and play

Solve traffic problems by relieving congestion and making commute an enjoyable experience for Frisco residents

Celebrate and promote our diversity by providing a safe and fun atmosphere for every resident and encourage their participation at every level

Be a good steward of our existing resources and infrastructure

Build a reliable public transportation system for Frisco

Plan responsibly for our future by keeping up with Frisco's rapid growth

Support a fair and balanced budget that maintains core city services and protects the most vulnerable

Keep Frisco affordable while providing essential services to all existing and future residents

Encourage high quality public education that focuses on early childhood development and parental involvement

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 believe in equality, diversity and equal rights for everyone. I will continue my partnership and dialogue with various diverse groups in Frisco including LGBT to learn about their issues and concerns and how I can help as a council member. It will absolutely be my priority to ensure that all city employees receive diversity training including information regarding the LGBT community

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 will strongly support and advocate an ERO similar to Plano in Frisco. I will continue to raise awareness at all levels to ensure that everyone is treated fairly and equally including the LGBT community. I will meet with all major businesses moving to our city to learn about their personnel policies regarding LGBT and ensure they will be treated equally. I will hold regular meetings with business owners and the LGBT community to ensure there is absolutely no discrimination against them.

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 strongly oppose this bill. This bill is unnecessary and it unfairly targets and discriminates against the LGBT community. There is no place for discrimination in our society.

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 will require the city to adopt a policy that not only ensures there is no discrimination in hiring, firing and promotions but also encourages various diverse groups, including LGBT, to apply for city jobs.

Why should members of the LGBT community support your candidacy?

I stand for equal rights and protection for everyone. Being an American Muslim (a minority) myself, I can relate to some of the issues the LGBT community is facing these days. I represent and celebrate diversity in our city. I will be a strong advocate for the LGBT community at all levels. I will be supportive of their causes. Diversity is our strength and it needs to be properly represented at the local government.

PLACE 6

BOBBY ROBERTI



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Website: www.robertifrisco.com

Facebook: Bobby Roberti

Education: Bachelor of Arts – History, Southern Methodist University

Occupation: Associate Vice President – Investments, Wells Fargo Advisors

Highlights of civic involvement:

Frisco Planning & Zoning Committee, Chairman

Charter Review Commission

Capital Improvement Advisory Committee

Neighborhood Design Strategy Advisory Committee

Platform:

Keep public safety strong and funded - I fully believe that allowing our PD and FD to grow and remain vigilant as our city grows is crucial; this is one of the few areas that the private sector cannot provide, it must be a government service. Employees and personnel costs are the city's largest expense, and the bulk of that goes to Police and Fire. We must keep our public safety departments well-equipped and manned. It would be easy in tight times to begin looking at ways to cut police and fire, but residents need to understand that the minute you do that, we will begin to see our safety ratings drop. We need to be constantly seeking ways to improve and grow the departments as long as the city is in rapid growth mode. I believe there are always places in the budget that elected officials can scrutinize and manage expenses in order to keep public safety well-funded.

Managing the growth – My perspective will be to affect this by continuing to stay tough on density. We don't want to become the next Dallas; it's not why people moved here. We need to understand and remember that residents come here because they want to raise their families here, and we must not lose sight of that core constituency in order to focus exclusively on the needs of other demographics. This is where a balance on Council will be helpful and I believe I can add to that conversation. The traffic and congestion we are experiencing today is the outcome of decisions made on City Council 10-15 years ago, and I believe that my 5 years as a planning commissioner have given me unique abilities to look ahead to the horizon regarding our population and comprehensive plans.

Keep taxes low yet maintain high-quality city services – I want to see this happen through attracting large corporations who will bring professional jobs and add to the commercial tax base, allowing us to keep burden off our resident taxpayers. Our Economic Development Corporation is a treasure and must be supported in its programs to recruit commercial tax base, but I believe Council must also be willing to push the EDC to stretch and improve its strategies. We cannot grow our commercial tax base when we are losing blue-chip employers to Plano, Allen, McKinney, and Dallas.

GALA did not receive a response to its Candidate Questionnaire from Bobby Roberti.

PLACE 6

JASON ABATI



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Facebook: Jason ForFrisco

Education: Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, with a Major in Management, Texas State University

Occupation: Part-owner of hotel management company Flagship Services Corp.; General Manager of residential real estate investment firm HouseMax; Owner of The Abati Group, a property management company

Highlights of civic involvement:

My family and I have lived in Frisco and been active and involved in our local community for the past 10 years. Both my wife Melissa and I are successful small business owners, and we've formed invaluable friendships and connections with those whom we have gotten to know since we've been here. The time I've spent in Frisco gives me the additional experience I need to be successful in this city council position and I would welcome the opportunity to serve the people of Frisco.

Platform:

High Density Housing Developments - I would examine the high density housing development efforts to make sure the number and style of apartments being built are better balanced within our residential areas. I would also like to limit low-income housing in Frisco in order to preserve the high values that Frisco has always had in place. Also, if I had the power, I would stop Section 8 housing from being placed inside Frisco. I strongly believe placing this type of housing within our community is a detriment to everyone involved.

Traffic Concerns - I would work closely with the Public Works Department, the Planning & Zoning Commission, and the FEDC to agree on how to quickly reduce traffic problems on our roadways. I would like to install more roundabouts throughout Frisco, as these have been proven to reduce traffic in certain areas, all while incorporating our original "small town" city feel. I would also like to explore additional ways to expand and improve roadways between Frisco and our northern neighbors, as I believe much of our newly found traffic troubles are further compounded with the fast growth of areas like Prosper and Celina.

FISD Budget Shortfalls - I would like for the school board and the city to work together to better examine FISD's finances and determine which solutions should be in place to help balance their budget, while maintaining Frisco's quality education reputation.

Public Safety - Keeping Frisco safe is a top priority for me. I believe there is a way in the current budget to appropriately fund public safety to keep up with our growth rate. We must be willing to spend money to both employ and retain our quality police and fire department employees, by offering competitive pay and benefits packages for these city employees. I also believe texting while driving is one of our greatest public safety concerns and I would work hard to try to get this banned in our community.

Senior Care - As someone who has taken care of his aging parents as they both battled cancer, I have a soft spot in my heart for seniors. I want to ensure they have the resources they need available to them in Frisco. This includes sufficient public transportation for residents over 65 years of age. I would work to provide additional opportunities to meet this need for our Frisco seniors.

GALA did not receive a response to its Candidate Questionnaire from Jason Abati.

PLACE 6

RUI ZHANG



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Website: www.ruizhang4frisco.org

Facebook: -

Education: B.S, Management Information Systems, Southern Illinois University; MBA, Saint Louis University

Occupation: Business Executive

Highlights of civic involvement:

Member Board of Directors for Asian American Cohesion Foundation promoting cultural exchanges and community cohesion

Platform:

Dynamic Leadership - *Involve Communities. Engage Talents.* Frisco has experienced unprecedented growth by attracting people from all over the nation and the world. According to Frisco ISD, over 60 languages are spoken by students at home. Our residents possess a wealth of knowledge, skills and life experiences. We need to tap into Frisco's rich tapestry of talents, cultures and assets so we can engage multiple perspectives for fresh ideas and creative solutions.

Responsibility - *Financial Transparency. Low Taxes. Best City Services.* Property taxes represent the largest source of revenue for the city. Due to the increasing property value appraisals over the years and the expectation that the tax base will continue to grow, we need transparent and intuitive reporting to inform our citizens of expenditures and debt burdens. The citizens need to be engaged early in the budgeting cycle to have a meaningful impact. For city services, we need to demonstrate how we satisfy the needs of our citizens. We need to establish performance metrics, track and compare those with other comparable cities.

Impact - *Anticipate Traffic and Infrastructure Challenges.* Sustaining the tremendous economic and population growth of our city needs thoughtful and impactful leadership. Our infrastructure was largely built at the same time so they age at the same time. In the next 10 years, Frisco's major infrastructure challenges will begin to show signs of urgency due to escalating costs of wear and tear. Traffic congestion is going to worsen as the number of people commuting in and out of the city continue to increase. We need to inform our citizens of the implications of these impending issues along with engaging them for solution-oriented dialogues. Anticipating challenges and proactively planning to meet them require impactful leadership.

Vitality - *Manage Population Growth. Control Density. Build Smart Suburban Frisco.* The city currently projects the population of Frisco to reach 375,000 at build out. We need to proactively plan and implement meaningful measures to monitor and manage the growth so that we can keep the actual population below that. The city also needs to conduct benchmarking analysis comparing to other cities with similar characteristics to Frisco. We then need to publish those results and communicate their implications in a plain language. We also need to leverage technologies to help improve safety, save energy and engage residents. For example, mobile apps would be an effective way engaging more residents.

RUI ZHANG

Economics - Sustain Thriving Frisco. Promote Small Business and Entrepreneurship - Robust economic development contributes to diversifying the tax base and reducing tax burdens. We need to attract and retain businesses that produce a positive long term impact to the communities and align with Frisco's strengths and vision. We need to regularly bring our communities together to establish goals, receive feedback and report back on the execution.

We need to promote entrepreneurial growth. Small businesses bring tremendous benefits to our communities and are a vital economic force. They spur creativity. They offer unique and diverse products and services. And they contribute to Frisco's beautiful personality. We can also partner with Frisco ISD offering students classes on entrepreneurship education which is an important life skill to have.

GALA did not receive a response to its Candidate Questionnaire from Rui Zhang.

PLACE 6

BRIAN LIVINGSTON



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Education: University of Texas at Austin, Bachelor of Business Administration – Finance University of Texas at Dallas, Master of Business Administration – Accounting University of Texas at Dallas, Master of Science Accounting.

Occupation: Chief Executive Officer of Celebrity Café & Bakery, Texadelphia Frisco and Texadelphia Plano

Highlights of civic involvement:

Frisco Board of Adjustment & Construction Board of Appeals – Vice Chairman
Watch DOGS “Dads of Great Students” – Carroll Elementary
Volunteer YEA! Young Entrepreneurs Academy – Investor Panel
Frisco Convention and Visitor Bureau –
Board Member Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
DFW Executive Committee Member National Psoriasis Foundation
North Dallas Chamber of Commerce
Board Member Junior Achievement volunteer

Platform:

Infrastructure - The future of Frisco depends on the strength of our infrastructure; our roads, water, power as well as our police and fire departments. We have seen tremendous growth in our population over the last decade. It is imperative that we prepare the core of our city for the future. The city needs to ensure that our citizens continue to receive the quality services from the city that they are used to receiving. The city must work closely with our service providers to ensure continued quality service and that we are also prepared for our continued growth.

Safety - Our police and fire need our full support. The citizens of Frisco need our police to be staffed, armed, armored and trained appropriately to protect us from the harm that is becoming all too common. We need our Fire department staffed, trained and equipped to handle the larger and numerous developments that are coming to Frisco. Frisco is a premier location for events, corporations, visitors and citizens. We have to make sure our police and fire are able to continue to provide the high levels of services and attend to the needs of our citizens and our guests. The city must ensure that the police, fire and city are in constant communication regarding their needs to protect themselves and our city today and in the future.

Planning - The city should continue to be responsible to our citizens in regards to the trust they give the city officials regarding our financial future. We need responsible spending and accountability for our budget. As our city grows, so will our budget. The city will need to closely review our financial needs and eliminate any unnecessary spending that ultimately enters every growing entity's budget. They city should continue to be cognizant of the incentives it offers for corporations to relocate to Frisco and realize that we are now an extremely attractive place to relocate even without large financial incentives. People move to Frisco for our excellent schools, our arts and culture, as well as our infrastructure. We need to make sure the Frisco of yesterday that made people want to move here is still here for the people who want to move here tomorrow.

BRIAN LIVINGSTON

Transparency - Whether you have lived in Frisco since you were a child or for only a few months, you deserve to know what our city is doing to protect your investment. Our city is based on strong families, community involvement and solid ideas for growth. They city has always and will continue to benefit from the input from the diverse group of people who call Frisco home. I believe the city should continue to reach out to Frisco's citizens on critical issues facing the city and work to be more inclusive regarding the citizens that sit on our boards and commissions. I would encourage our residents, new and long term, to continue to be engaged in the decisions the city is making today and in the future. I believe that all major contracts should go through a frequent RFP process beyond the minimum required to ensure we are getting the highest quality service for the best price. Finally, given that Frisco is continuing to grow at impressive rates, I believe that all significant hirings should be done through a nationwide search to make sure we are getting to select from the best candidates in the country.

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?

Once elected I plan to have monthly coffee meetings with citizens that want to meet and discuss anything on their mind. I think personal face to face meetings accomplish a lot more than emails or large group meetings when trying to get to know someone. Hearing concerns of the LGBT community (and all communities) directly from the source is the best thing I can do to learn about their issues. Yes, I support training city staff on all HR issues.

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?

As a small business owner in Frisco, it is hard for me to understand wanting to exclude a portion of the market from being a potential customer. I support the right to refuse service to anyone but only use that for people that are clearly a problem and their business is not worth the hassle. I believe that the free market will weed out the people that don't want to serve a segment of our population and those of us that run a smart business will prevail. I don't think this is city level responsibility but personally I would encourage any business to treat everyone the same and would demand it by the city.

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.

Personally, I am not aware of any situation that has occurred related to the use of bathrooms and assume from that it isn't widespread. This bill creates a few problems for me, 1) I would prefer that we just leave things as is and all government stays out of telling people which bathroom to use, 2) I believe local ordinances should not exist because they create a problem of conflict and confusion and 3) I feel like we are spending a lot of time on a problem that is very small. I believe everyone should be treated fair and equal but at a point we have to realize limits.

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 in my businesses, we hire people based on skills, qualifications and ability to do the specific job. I think a strong HR system being in place with proper checks and balances would limit the violation of laws. If city employees are not wanting to hire the most qualified candidates for ANY reason I would have a problem with it.

Why should members of the LGBT community support your candidacy?

I realize that we are going to disagree on a few issues and I look forward to discussing them over time and at a minimum earning the respect of each other. My bakery, Celebrity Cafe & Bakery, has a record of supporting the LGBT community whether in raising money for the victims of Orlando, LGBT employees participating in our employee wedding cake offer and in general staffing. I focus on the person and not our areas of disagreement or difference. I firmly believe that everyone has equal rights but that no one has extra rights that can overrule someone else's rights. Again, we will disagree on some issues, but if you want better roads, lower taxes and the opportunity to be more involved in your local government then I am your candidate.