



## 2014 – Austin Mayoral and City Council “Get to Know Your Candidate” Town Hall City Council District 10 Info Sheet

The following questions were e-mailed to all candidates invited to attend the town hall. Below are those responses received as written by the candidate with occasional minor edits to conserve space on this sheet. Those candidates scheduled to attend have been highlighted in **red**. Key: **Bio Questions** | **Ice Breaker Questions** | **Issue Questions**

Name	Bill Worsham	Mandy Dealey	Margie Burciaga	Matt Lamon
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<b>Campaign Web-site</b>	<a href="http://www.billforaustin10.com">www.billforaustin10.com</a>	<a href="http://www.mandydealey.com/">www.mandydealey.com/</a>	<a href="http://www.margieforaustin.com">www.margieforaustin.com</a>	<a href="http://www.mattlamon.com">www.mattlamon.com</a>
<b>Occupation / Main Source of Income</b>	Director of Coastal Engineering, LJA Engineering, Inc.	Investor	The Art of Image & Wardrobing	Chief of Staff, Texas House of Reps
<b>Previous Occupations</b>	Independent engineering consultant; TGLO coastal division director; small business owner	N/A	group tour coordinator; financial planning; sales rep	Management Consultant
<b>Education</b>	BS Ocean Engineering, Texas A&M, 1986	The University of Texas at Austin (B.A. in Art History, 1972) Leadership Austin, Class of 1986 Leadership Texas, Class of 1988 Leadership America, Class of 1991 The University of Texas, LBJ School of Public Affairs (M.P.A., 2003)	Unv of Arkansas BSBA in finance & banking; certified financial planning; certified life coach CPC,CCC,CRC,CBC	BA, UT-Austin, MPA, Texas A&M
<b>How long have you lived in Austin (Years)?</b>	19	32	27	20
<b>How long have you lived in Texas (Years)?</b>	41	64	54	30
<b>If not a native Austinite, what brought you to move to Austin?</b>	a job in the best city in Texas	The wrong man	a job opportunity	Parents
<b>Though a non-partisan race, generally, what political party do you associate with or are registered to vote as?</b>	Republican	Democratic	vote both sides of the aisle	Republican
<b>Previous public offices sought and/or held and when:</b>	None	Ran for Austin City Council in 2005, and ran in 2000 Democratic Primary for House District 48.	none	N/A

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<b>What civic organizations do you belong to?</b>	West Austin Neighborhood Group (WANG)/Austin Neighborhoods Council (ANC) Northwest Austin Civic Association (NWACA) Travis County Taxpayers Union Coalition on Sustainable Transportation Travis County Republican Party Republican Freedom Coalition Central Texas Republican Assembly Texans for Accountable Government	I am a board member of several organizations - Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas, KMFA Classical Radio, the James Dick Foundation (Festival Institute in Round Top), Harry Ransom Center Advisory Council.	Bob Mayberry Foundation Leadership Austin Junior League of Austin Junior Austin Women's Club-President this year	The Welcome Table, Inc. Austin Republican Women, Associate Member Austin Republican Club
<b>Have you ever been convicted of a felony?</b>	No	No	No	No
<b>Have you ever had any civil judgments against you?</b>	No	No	No	No
<b>Do you belong to your neighborhood or homeowner's association?</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Have you participated in neighborhood planning?</b>	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
<b>If yes, how have you participated?</b>	As a member and participant in WANG meetings, ANC meetings, RECA committees, attendee at various public input sessions, etc.	I answered the way I did because I have never been directly involved in neighborhood planning - I have never lived in a neighborhood as it was going through the process, but as a Planning Commissioner for 7 years, I worked closely with neighborhoods that were.	CodeNext-Ambassador for the program, beta team for launch initiative Served on our Homeowners Board 2008-2010	Have worked with neighbors on a zoning issue.
<b>What is your favorite book?</b>	Atlas Shrugged; also The Voluntary City--Choice, Community, and Civil Society	Often it is the last one I read, and I have a lot of books I have loved. Having to pick one is really hard, but if I can name just one, it would have to be Lonesome Dove.	The Bible	I love to read about LBJ and Teddy Roosevelt
<b>What is your favorite movie or television series?</b>	The Big Lebowski	White Collar and Masterpiece Theatre	The Good Wife	The Walking Dead
<b>What is your favorite hobby(ies)?</b>	Sailing; family trips	I don't really have any hobbies - call me boring - unless I can include travel, which is a passion.	golf, martial arts, working out, snow skiing	Tennis, Swimming, Road Tripping
<b>What is your favorite thing to do in Austin?</b>	Run the trail along Lady Bird Lake	Lately I haven't had enough free time to do what I love - trying new restaurants.	walk around Lady Bird Lake	Eating Mexican food

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<p><b>Why are you running for office?</b></p>	<p>This is a very unique and important time in city governance. Laurie and I wanted to maximize our positive impact so we looked for a candidate to support. We were concerned that the citywide field included many lawyers, politicians, and social activists but no one with the infrastructure experience needed to set appropriate policy on the big-ticket spending items before us.</p> <p>After careful consideration of other options we chose to get into the race because it is too important not to. We are excited about the opportunity to steer our capital spending in a different, better direction for the benefit of the city as a whole, and for District 10.</p>	<p>For the last 30 years as a community advocate, I have worked to make people's lives in Austin better. I have been on six City boards, commissions and task forces, and have chaired large nonprofits such as Planned Parenthood, the bipartisan Texas Lyceum, Preservation Austin and KMFA Classical Radio. I have the greatest breadth and depth of city and community issues of all candidates in District 10, and I am ready to take that experience to City Hall to be a productive council member on day one.</p>	<p>We need a voice of reason that will work hard with the community to bring transparency to city hall spending and yield effective and efficient government. For too long councils and commissions continue to spend our hard earned dollars forgetting who bears the brunt of the ever increasing taxes and fees. I am a single income producer that understands people on fixed incomes, like my parents and the desire of the younger generations to live in the neighborhoods they grew up in, but can't afford to. We needed someone with a financial background to hold city management accountable for a transparent budget.</p>	<p>I grew up here in Austin, went to public schools and worked my way through UT. I'm passionate about my hometown and want us to prosper. The challenges we face today, however, are the same challenges we've faced for many years. The current and past councils have ignored the nuts and bolts of running a city. I bring hands-on experience, as a former management consultant, helping struggling public sector agencies. I also have extensive experience working in the Texas Legislature. Our next crop of city leaders needs to be centrist problem-solvers. And my background fits that need.</p>
<p><b>What are your top three priorities for Austin?</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I want to re-focus city government on the basic services it should be providing to all residents without getting into all manner of secondary spending and transfer programs.</li> <li>2. We must focus transportation spending on the shared road systems upon which the overwhelming numbers of trips occur, whether for commuting to work or the millions of other daily trips we take. This means saying no to the rail debt proposal.</li> <li>3. Taxation must stop increasing and the land development/redevelopment process must become understandable and predictable for all stakeholders.</li> </ol>	<p>I think a lack of strategic vision is the number one issue facing Austin, and this affects the looming water shortage, the transportation problems and overall affordability. The Council takes an ad hoc approach to much of their business, and they don't appear to look at every issue in context of the city as a whole and against an adopted set of criteria. There needs to be a framework in which all decisions are made, and transparency should be an overriding criterion. I want the Council to spend as much time as it takes in the first of the year to develop a set of values that guide their decision making.</p>	<p>Transportation-Affordable solutions: Comprehensive bus line, small buses for van pools, increase cabs, &amp; TNC's. Improve congestion with HOV lanes, timed on-ramps, &amp; re-timed traffic lights using state prop 1 \$400 mil. Collaborate with private &amp; public entities to solve congested corridors.</p> <p>Affordability: We're the 1st to campaign for city homestead exemption &amp; reduction of utility fees. Do an accurate cost analysis for all monetary impact that City regulations have on housing for tax relief. Political will to reach across party lines at state level to equalize the appraisal system.</p> <p>Water: Stop making deals with water we don't have! Cut corporate utility subsidies that drive up costs &amp; replace leaking infrastructure. Provide incentives for homes &amp; businesses to use reclaimed water, dual flush commodes, tank less water heaters, polyethylene pipe for plumbing and landscape with native or semi-arid plants. Increase water runoff &amp; reduce fire hazard conditions by clearing brush.</p>	<p>First, it is the rising cost of living. I support initiatives like a homestead exemption to giving working families instant relief. Secondly, I want to work on transportation. I believe we need to do a better job of planning and take an "all the above" approach to addressing gridlock. Lastly, I am concerned about bureaucracy at City Hall. Whether it is our permitting process or the way our departments are run, we need to institute a culture of customer service and reform the public sector.</p>

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<p>Traffic continues to be an increasing problem for many Austinites as they commute to and from work. Is this a top priority for you?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>If so, what is your plan to help alleviate some of the traffic problems? If not, why?</p>	<p>Re-focus transportation spending on the shared road system, and facilitate the use of emerging technologies and markets to the fullest extent possible. Allocate funds to reduce truck tolls on SH 130; embrace smart signal technology; ramp metering; fewer restrictions on private transit alternatives; focus public transit subsidies on our economically-disadvantaged community rather than on an agenda-driven attempt to get choice riders out of personal vehicles; intersection improvements; overpasses; expand throughput on Loop 360; many more opportunities if we don't blow billions on rail.</p>	<p>There is no quick fix, or one solution that will reduce congestion. We must work together to find both long-and-short-term solutions for our traffic problems. Mass transportation and roads must both be a part of Austin's future planning. I am a strong supporter of public transit, and I think it needs to be expanded. Looking for short-term solutions, such as telecommuting where possible, should also be a goal of ours. One way to cut down on traffic congestion would be to stagger the work hours, and the city should lead by example with city employees. Transportation is one of the largest expenses in most people's homes, so finding ways of transporting more people more efficiently and inexpensively will be a step toward achieving affordability in Austin.</p>	<p>A comprehensive bus line we can do now. It's cheaper than rail, increases mobility to more communities and enhances retained employment across the city. Use small buses for van pools. We can improve traffic congestion with HOV lanes, timed on-ramps, &amp; re-timed traffic lights using state prop 1 \$400 million dollars. Collaborate with private and public entities to solve congested corridors. Increase cabs and transportation network companies.</p>	<p>We know that most of our congestion is due to people coming to and from work. So, I'm very interested in finding ways to develop more employment centers outside of downtown. Since housing close to downtown is so expensive, it makes a lot of sense to develop business areas closer to where people live. We also know that the permitting process at City Hall is cumbersome and the rules are confusing. We need to reform that so building is less expensive and people can afford to move closer into the core. Additionally, I support a commuter bus system, which is a much better deal for the taxpayer than rail. These are just a few of my ideas. Fixing our transportation problem has got to be addressed from several perspectives.</p>
<p>What do you see as the greatest untapped opportunity for economic development in Austin?</p>	<p>Our greatest untapped opportunity is to unleash individual productivity, creativity, innovation, and volunteerism by reducing the city government footprint on our lives. This can be done by eliminating obstacles to innovation, reducing the crushing debt and tax burden on producers, and generally providing an atmosphere of freedom. City government should be "aggressively hands-off" rather than meddling in every corner of our residents' lives.</p>	<p>Health services and healthcare are the most underrepresented sectors in our economy. With the new medical school and the expansion of Central Health services, Austin has the opportunity to become a regional healthcare center.</p>	<p>Create a supply hub in east Austin. We are in the main corridor for NAFTA and we could create an environment for growing lots of middle and low income jobs by moving the freight line that is MoPac to the east side. This would create needed jobs, allow generations of Austinites to stay in their communities which would increase enrollment in schools that are at risk of closing. It makes since to have our freight rail near air freight and find a win-win solution for getting 18 wheelers to use 130 which is also on the east side which would get traffic off of I35.</p>	<p>That's hard to say because I do think our leaders have done a good job at diversifying the economy. I'm a big proponent of education, and while that doesn't necessarily fall under the city's jurisdiction, I'll advocate for programs that train and promote an educated workforce.</p>
<p>Do you think Austin affords enough legal rights and protections to its gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender residents?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>

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<b>Why or why not?</b>	I would like to see less emphasis placed on dividing residents into groups to be politically played against one another. GLBT residents should absolutely enjoy every right than any other Austinite enjoys--no more and no less. Any abuses of those rights should be treated equally harshly.	I fully support the domestic partner benefits the city offers and gender-neutral bathrooms. There is probably more that could be done, and I would welcome finding out and being a champion of those changes.	We are one of the more progressive cities nationally for these rights.	I'm not a lawyer, so this question is a little hard to answer. However, I believe that all citizens should be treated equally and fairly. If there are problems, I'd like to know more about them.
<b>Name some infill projects that are vital to the health and success of your district. What are the pluses and minuses of the development of these projects?</b>	<p>I don't think any potential infill projects in D10 can be considered vital to the district's health or success. That said, infill development will certainly continue, and the population within the city limits could double within existing zoning entitlements. Obviously such development will strain the transportation system and other infrastructure, while also generating additional city revenue.</p> <p>An orderly transition from public ownership to private development must be implemented with early leadership at the council level. Any development plans for publicly-owned tracts not presently subject to city land development regulations, such as the Brackenridge Tract, Muny Golf Course, and TxDOT Bull Creek Road tract, must be compatible with existing surrounding neighborhoods and mitigate for effects on traffic, schools, and other infrastructure.</p>	At the moment, there are a number of infill projects that are being discussed, such as the TXDOT land on Bull Creek Road. I think the city must increase density in a responsible and compatible way, and that will be dependent on the decisions of this new council. I think my 7 years on the Planning Commission will be a positive in dealing with these issues. Although there is discussion and speculation about a lot of projects, none is vital to the health of the district. It is not so much a question of what as how.	We must work well with AISD along with the planning department since our lowest school capacity is at 120%. One of our elementary schools has more kids in portables than in the main school building. We also need affordable housing options	The bottom line is that life is going to change in District 10. We've got the Bull Creek property at 45th St that the State of Texas is selling (possibly to HEB). We've got the Breckenridge Tract and the State School in Tarrytown. There are also proposals to redevelop property along Spicewood Springs Rd. I'm an advocate for making the central core denser. However, I do think these projects can be done in consultation with our neighborhoods to protect our quality of life. If these projects are developed carefully, density could lead to less traffic congestion and more housing options. If they are rushed through, I think we risk losing treasured neighborhoods.
<b>Are the needs of downtown Austin and its outlying communities being balanced effectively?</b>	No	No	No	No
<b>Why or why not?</b>	Current council and city staff spend the vast majority of time and resources in the city center. City policy and priorities are driven by advocacy (primarily paid advocacy) and there are few advocates for the outlying neighborhoods.	Because downtown is such an economic driver for the city, it gets more attention, often at the expense of Austin neighborhoods. However, it is a fact that the tax revenues from downtown pay for many services outside the core.	. For too long North and West Austin have severely been ignored which is huge reason why no infrastructure was build to handle traffic. There is not a high priority to have a comprehensive bus system with smaller buses.	Over the course of this campaign, I've heard time and again that District 10 residents feel ignored. We want to be consulted about changes to our neighborhood and we want to be considered for investment. Right now, downtown is the focus and I think a district-based system will help balance priorities.
<b>Will you vote for or against subsidies to large employers?</b>	Against	For	Against	For

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<b>Will you require a total cost-benefit analysis before voting on any subsidies or loans to any businesses?</b>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>What are the strengths and weaknesses of Austin's new city district system?</b>	<p>Strengths are better accountability to district residents, better council member familiarity with the districts, and better diversity of viewpoints and ideas on the council (plus more of them). Weaknesses will depend on the level of integrity of those elected, but could include the evolution of ward politics. I am optimistic that if persons of integrity are elected, and there are some conservative views represented for the first time, we can reverse some negative trends in city governance.</p> <p>I think we will eventually migrate to a strong mayor system of city governance.</p> <p>I am not in favor of subsidy (aka transfers of resources from one group to another).</p> <p>Regarding housing, I think the distribution discussion is a solution looking for a problem. Put the housing where we get the most out of the public resources consumed.</p>	<p>Austin is about to embark on a new era of city governance, and I want to make sure we establish a good model for communication and collaboration that will be a precedent for future council members. This new system gives us the opportunity to ensure each part of Austin is equally represented. My concern is that decisions will be driven by a measure of what is best for that member's district without enough attention paid to the overall good of the city. There are going to be 10 newly elected council members, nine of whom will be freshmen with varying degrees of experience and understanding of city politics and issues. I hope the voters in District 10 will want to choose someone with a proven track record, who knows how the City work and has a demonstrated ability to bring people together to find solutions, as their representative. I have the greatest breadth and depth of city and community issues, and I am ready to take that experience to be a productive council member on day one.</p>	<p>We get to have a voice at the table for the needs of our communities. It will allow us to look at the whole city when making decisions for each district and how it will impact us. Political will to make tough decisions that might not be the best for one's own district yet will be good for the city.</p>	<p>If I may say first that I will handle the subsidies issue on a case-by-case basis. I certainly won't be a rubber stamp. Likewise, I will keep an open mind.</p> <p>In my opinion, the strengths outweigh the negatives. Too many parts of this city have been ignored for too long. 10-1 gives us a voice and gives us somebody to hold accountable. That's what I like about November elections and a district system. I respect the view that we could dissolve into ward-style politics, but I disagree. We've got bright, motivated people in Austin and I feel that many will be willing to serve.</p>
<b>Would you entertain any further changes to the system?</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Do you believe that affordable housing should be distributed throughout the city?</b>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Do you support the energy and water conservation policies of the City of Austin utilities?</b>	No	Yes	Yes	Yes