



2014 – Austin Mayoral and City Council “Get to Know Your Candidate” Town Hall City Council District 3 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	Christopher Hoerster	Dr. Fred L. McGhee	Eric J. Rangel	Julian Limon Fernandez	Mario Cantu	Ricardo Turullols-Bonilla	Sabino 'Pio' Renteria	Shaun Ireland
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Campaign Web-site	www.Christopher4ATX.org	www.fredmcghee.com	www.voterangel.com	www.electjulian.com	www.mariocantufordistrict3.com	www.ricardoforaustin3.com	district3forpio.com	www.shaunireland.com
Occupation / Main Source of Income	Student	Archaeologist/Author/Professor	Special Project Coordinator - TxDOT	Professional Musician	EMT-Paramedic	HS Science teacher AISD	retired, pension	Director of Finance and Intergovernmental Affairs
Previous Occupations	District Supervisor Gatti's Pizza	Too numerous to list (please see attached bio)	Office manager/Director of Accounts Receivables - A1 Partsmart	Austin City Clerk's Records Management	Healthcare	Business owner	IBM computer repair and customer service	n/a
Education	current Master's student at Texas State	B.S., Northeastern University, M.A., Ph.D., UT Austin	B.A.I.S. - International Studies; Concentration in Business - Texas State University	High School, TAMU-Extension Services and Heating and A/C	Austin Community College, Vocational Photography, EMT-Paramedic.	BS MS physics UT Austin; MBA; MA philosophy incomplete	some college, IBM service and repair schools	Bachelor's, NYU 2007
How long have you lived in Austin (Years)?	49	19	5	58	47	11	64	4
How long have you lived in Texas (Years)?	49	21	30	58	47	11	64	31
If not a native Austinite, what brought you to move to Austin?	Born here	Graduate School	Opportunity	xxx xxxxxx xxx	Born and raised in Austin	Writing	I am a native Austinite	Business and love of Food, Music, and BBQ
Though a non-partisan race, generally, what political party do you associate with or are registered to vote as?	Democratic	Democratic Party	Democratic	Democratic	Democratic	Universal	Democratic	Democratic

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Previous public offices sought and/or held and when:	Dorothy Linder PTA president	Austin ISD (2007), ACC Board (2010)	Austin City Council (At Large) - 2011	none	None	None	City Council Place 1 in 1990	Austin City Council - Place 6
What civic organizations do you belong to?	Tejano Dems	American Legion, Montopolis Neighborhood Association, Carson Ridge Neighborhood Association	Current President - Texas State University Alumni Association - Hispanic Chapter; Past President – South River City Citizens (SRCC) Neighborhood Association; Past VP - South Austin Democrats; Leadership Team - Texas State University Alumni Association - Austin Chapter; Past Precinct Chair – Travis County Democratic Party; Member - Austin Environmental Democrats; Member - Austin Tejano Democrats; Member - Black Austin Democrats; Member - Capital Area Progressive Democrats; Member - Capital Tejano Democrats; Member - South Austin Democrats; Member - Stonewall Democrats; Core Team Leader – St. Ignatius Youth Ministry	BMI Songwriter	Previous organizations: Vice Chair of the South Congress Combined Neighborhood Contact Team - VP and President of my Home Owners Association for 5 years. I also operated for 2 years with Austin Neighborhoods Council as the Sector 9 Representative for my area of South and East Austin.	Austin Interfaith	East Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Association and its Planning Contact Team, vice-chair Friends of the Mexican American Cultural Center, co-founder AB Cantu/Pan Am Recreation Center Advisory Board, treasurer Southern Poverty Law Center, member since 1997	South Austin Democrats, Tejano Democrats of Austin, Gun Owners of America, National Rifle Association, National Eagle Scout Association,
Have you ever been convicted of a felony?	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Have you ever had any civil judgments against you?	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Do you belong to your neighborhood or homeowner's association?	Yes	Founder and President of two Neighborhood Associations	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Have you participated in neighborhood planning?	Yes		Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

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If yes, how have you participated?	Online meetings, Public meetings, city council meetings, Project Connect meetings		Town Hall meetings, forums, outreach.		I was Vice Chair of the South Congress Combined Neighborhood Contact Team - VP and President of my Home Owners Association for 5 years. I was actively involved with neighborhood planning and engagement during that time. I also operated for 2 years with Austin Neighborhoods Council as the Sector 9 Representative for my area - South and East Austin. We addressed many issues related to planning, neighborhood plans, and development.	In a theoretical sense yes insofar as I'm a pacifist having written six books so far.	I co-founded the 'pilot' East Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Planning Team in 1998. We were selected due in large part to our inclusion of diverse stakeholders including non-resident business owners, renters, homeowners, and civic/congregational/non-profit groups. I led the affordable housing working group developing goals/objectives/action steps to preserve existing affordable homes, build new units, and repair homes and apartments. I'm chair of the Affordable Housing Committee and am currently vice-chair. I participate on the land use committee attending planning commission, board of adjustment, and city council meetings on use changes and variances.	I am a member of the Galindo Neighborhood Association and have reviewed city notices about new developments within five hundred feet of my residence.
What is your favorite book?	LBJ	Moby Dick	Aztec by Gary Jennings	Don Quixote	Popular Photography	Hebrew Bible	The Color Purple	The Brothers by Stephen Kinzer
What is your favorite movie or television series?	West Wing	Casablanca	Friends	Gunsmoke	TNT The Last Ship	None	NCIS with Ziva	Ghostbusters
What is your favorite hobby(ies)?	Family time	I don't have a hobby. I enjoy spending time with my family.	Golf, reading, movies	playing drums	Photography	Swimming	Politics and fishing	Mapping/Cartography
What is your favorite thing to do in Austin?	Dine out	Spending time with my family	Explore the City	Perform with my Tex-Mex Conjunto Band, Los Texas Wranglers	Photographing	Write	Walk the trails	Watch movies at the Alamo Draffthouse

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<p>Why are you running for office?</p>	<p>I am the "better late than never" candidate for District 3. I got in the race on the last day in the last hours. I was managing Pete Salazar's campaign in District 7 and was not seeing a candidate that I felt could represent everyone in the district. Too many candidates have personal agendas and a reputation of not listening to others. We have had too much of this in city hall and must honor the idea behind 10=1 and elect someone for the people, all people. I am that candidate.</p>	<p>My love for Austin. I have lived in many places, but have lived here longer than anyplace else. I went to graduate school and started my business here, met my wife here, and am raising our three children here. I cherish my children's future and want them to grow up in an Austin that is not just more prosperous but also more humane and just. If elected, I shall pursue family oriented policies grounded in both scientific as well as humanistic understanding.</p>	<p>To bring a voice to those who have felt neglected, disenfranchised, and disconnected from the process.</p>	<p>I am the only candidate that was approached by the community and asked to run. My ability to communicate to a diverse community is my forte. I come into this campaign with no personal agendas; I am a listener and a level headed decision maker.</p>	<p>Based on what I know, learned, and seen, that if I don't not run for Austin City Council and things become worse, then I will only have to blame myself. I do not want to that to happen.</p>	<p>I have something to share. I found in my ten years and ten thousand hours researching and writing six books that Pythagoras, the one of the Pythagorean theorem, discovered that the virtue of everything is a triad, made up essentially of three interlocking pieces. Take the family, it's one but made up of mom, dad, and child; take us, people, one, but made of body, mind, and spirit. Likewise, the city as a collective self as much as we are individual selves is made up of neighborhoods standing for body, education for mind, and people for spirit; and all this such that if it isn't taken as a whole but as parts as is usually analyzed, we will have instead of a harmonious healthy unit a broken city, as is the case today with Austin.</p>	<p>I believe I'm the best candidate to represent people who live, work and play in District 3 because I have the knowledge and skills to work city hall. I served on many Boards/Commissions/Task Forces including the 1st Mexican American Culture Center Task Force and its first Advisory Board, served on the Environmental Board, the AB Cantu/Pan Am Recreation Center Advisory Board, the East Austin Neighborhood Center Advisory Board (currently treasurer), and served 14 years (8 yrs as chair) on the Community Development Commission which advises the Council on how to spend federal Health and Human Service Department (HUD) funding related to housing, transitional housing, and homelessness, small business assistance and job training, and low-income workers' support services like childcare, GEDs, AIDS services, and food security to name just a few, I'm running a grass-roots campaign to prove that a low-income, working class dad can win with the support of people who are a lot like me.</p>	<p>Austin has a larger annual budget than Dallas and San Antonio. We have more employees earning over \$100,000 than any other city in Texas. This election is about the future of Austin. I'll bring my background in business and community advocacy to city hall to better manage our city's growth and \$3.5 billion budget. I will stand up for small businesses and give our unique Austin neighborhoods a voice for progress!</p>

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What are your top three priorities for Austin?	Affordability Transportation first public then congestion Transparency	Transportation, Inequality, Sustainability	Affordable Housing, Transportation, Jobs	Property Taxes, Housing and Rental Affordability, Health and Human Services.	<p>Water: We must recognize climate change and consider a City of Austin drought protocol. We must protect our water resources from contamination and encourage water capture with an innovative city incentive program. We should look into investing in water re-use projects. I also seek to work with the other council members in evaluating the current measures that are in place for water usage, consumption, protection, filtering, and as a long-term resource.</p> <p>Rising Taxes: Seniors and retirees as well as Austin residents have to adjust their fixed incomes to simply maintain a basic lifestyle. I will direct council members to examine the reason and causes.</p> <p>Affordable Housing: Implement new Innovations to lower costs.</p>	The fact that the city is a collective self made up of neighborhoods, education, and people dictates my three or rather triad of priorities.	I can't declare priorities until I hear from South Austin folks in D3. Affordability is a big issue city-wide as is crime and safety; I want to help others in District 3 form community policing programs to prevent crime and build positive relationships with Austin police. It's worked in my neighborhood. I want to use my people skills to bring the diverse neighborhoods and businesses in District 3 together to focus on common ground and build a united voice for change and equitable distribution of city resources. With support of 5 other councilmembers: 1) stop recruiting out-of-town jobs and focus incentives to existing small businesses 2) use local talent and interns instead of out-of-area consultants and lawyers to delay decisions on tough issues 3) put the Council's lobbyists to work on legalizing medical marijuana, fix appraisals, and change laws to stop criminalizing youth/poor people who commit so-called 'quality of life ordinances,' truancy, and other minor Class C misdemeanors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transportation: Synchronize Traffic Lights, Expand Bus Routes - Mobility: Extend More Taxicabs, Accept Uber & Lyft, New Sidewalks - Public Safety: Hire more 9-1-1 Operators, Add 6 New Fire Stations
Traffic continues to be an increasing problem for many Austinites as they commute to and from work. Is this a top priority for you?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

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<p>If so, what is your plan to help alleviate some of the traffic problems? If not, why?</p>	<p>We need to use current tools we have to achieve this. Synchronize our lights, turn 183 and 360 in non-stop freeways and get the failure known as toll way 130 to solve congestion issues.</p> <p>For public transportation issues we must use Cap Metro involved with longer hours and more east west service. Make the busses go where the jobs are.</p>	<p>We need an "all of the above" strategy and should be thinking in three dimensions, not just two. In addition to rail, optimization of existing traffic, and state of the art traffic engineering, we should also be looking at water taxis, helicopter shuttling, smart pop-up transit systems such as Bridj, subsurface public transit in tunnels and caves, peer-to-peer services such as Uber and Lyft, and so on. Alongside this, we must also incentivize downtown development that emphasizes pedestrian and two-wheeled (motored and un-motored) transportation options. Getting more cars off the road is simply going to have to be a fact of life if we are to make headway on this issue, as there is no magic bullet. We must also deal properly with the environmental impacts. We also should think out of the box. For example, If it can be made to work I support extending and upgrading the Zilker Zephyr train to the MOPAC bridge and perhaps even across it, eventually creating a loop. That way the train can serve as more than just a tourist attraction but also as a viable low intensity transportation option for visitors to Barton Springs, who would then be able to park their cars closer to downtown.</p>	<p>I support rail and buses to serve the Austin-area. I believe the longer we hold off with rail, the more it'll cost and the more difficult it'll be to build. Imagine if we had the foresight to do this decades ago. By changing our culture from a "parking pass" culture to a "bus pass" culture and by changing our behaviors with alternate work hours and telecommuting, we will change our mindset and get to correcting our traffic/transportation problems.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a plan with U.T., AISD, ACC, State of Texas Employees, Travis County Employee and City of Austin employees to synchronize 30 minutes apart in sign in and sign out time. 2. Create a mandatory public transit ridership one day a week on employees that work in central Austin area. 3. Promote pedestrian safety, bike lanes and HOV lanes. 	<p>We must get back to the basics of our city's transportation infrastructure. When it comes to transportation and mobility, all modes must link together (e.g. sidewalks, connected trails, safe bike lanes, synced traffic lights, as well as our bus lines) and each must be easily accessible. If these very basics of transportation are not met with effective and efficient means, we defeat the purpose of the bigger picture, being advanced transportation.</p>	<p>The good solutions were twenty years ago, now it's only bad and worse ones. The only other way is a leap of faith of going underground, digging a subway system, though the price may be excessive. The name of the game is catching up in twenty years time at the earliest.</p>	<p>The quickest and cheapest fix is to invest in upgrading our traffic signal software and allowing neighborhood leaders to adjust timings since its at the grass-roots level that people are frustrated and they know when, where and how to fix traffic control issues at major intersections. Fixing traffic will take a lot of different tools including but not limited to reducing tolls on SH130 for big trucks, finishing the SW loop 45 as a limited access parkway with no development allowed to protect our aquifer; changing our taxi cab regulations to include different vehicles than cars while ensuring fees, licenses and liability insurance requirements are fair to all gas-powered, electric-powered, horse-drawn and people-powered vehicles. More kiss and drop commuter stations at bus, rail and trail stops. I support public transit and fear that fares are not affordable to the most needy users. I support re-working I-35 ramps and building light rail for future generations.</p>	<p>I will work to synchronize traffic lights and re-write the city's "for hire" transportation code to allow app based companies such as Lyft, Uber, and Sidecar to legally operate in Austin. I will work with Cap Metro to extend bus hours on weekends, holidays, and special events in an effort to reduce drunk driving and alleviate downtown parking.</p>

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What do you see as the greatest untapped opportunity for economic development in Austin?	Small businesses, we need to stop big corporate incentives and make it easier for small businesses to open, grow and operate. They are not asking for handouts, just a fair playing field in which to exist.	Austin's greatest untapped resource is its people, particularly in districts such as District 3, which have some of the hardest working people in town. We must educate our people and create a 21st century economy in our city that creates opportunity for everybody.	Manufacturing. We have 30% of the population with an education of a High School Diploma or lower. So even though we continue to lead the country with high-tech jobs, we have a lot of our population that have no chance of getting those jobs. Manufacturing is tied for 4th when it comes to job sectors here in Austin. There is a revival in America to start getting Americans back to work in factories and manufacturing. I think Austin can lead the way, and in doing so, we can attract manufacturing companies that will hire locally, pay fair wages, provide health benefits, and plan to contribute to the local economy.	I believe that we have the best colleges in United States. Instead of offering or contracting researchers, engineers and other services to out of town, state or out of the country, we should take advantage of these institutes and save millions of dollars in contracts.	Innovation that includes new ideas of economic development.	Geography determines history, in large measure. There's an ongoing regionalization worldwide, take the European Union and the Asian Tigers confederation, and if we don't integrate towards the south pronto we are going to be at a disadvantage population and otherwise. Austin is privileged to be in the mouth of the union of north and south Americas. This only comes out in a one hundred year plan. There is competition from SAT and Houston, and from Florida and California, but if we start we can lead and win the site for the capital of the Americas for Austin, something like what Geneva is to the UE.	Decriminalizing marijuana - or at least allowing medical marijuana -can be a huge job and tax generator. And since it's a labor-intensive industry, it could really help grow a whole new industry here. I recently attended a NORML workshop and their new strategy is to focus on military veterans who need medical marijuana as a substitute for harmful chemicals currently prescribed for ailments including but not limited to PTSD, inflammation of joints, digestive issues, chemo side effects, and glaucoma. The City Council has already adopted a resolution in support of medical marijuana which TX Rep. Elliott Naishtat has introduced for several years at the ledge. However, unless Austin, the progressive oasis in Texas, pushes it via its legislative agenda and forces its highly paid legislative lobbyists to push medical marijuana - it's unlikely to pass the Texas House and Senate in our lifetimes.	As of mid-January, we have 33,000 Central Texas job openings in areas like IT and healthcare but no qualified applicants. We have to close the achievement gap and increase high school graduation rates. District 3 includes 17 square miles and two school districts: Austin ISD and Del Valle ISD. The district also has two ACC campuses and St. Edwards University. The City of Austin must seek funding solutions for Pre-K and work with area school districts to make our high school graduates career and college ready.
Do you think Austin affords enough legal rights and protections to its gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender residents?	No	This is a relative question. In comparison to San Francisco No. In comparison to most of Texas and the south Yes.	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes

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Why or why not?	I cannot begin to step into the shoes of the LGBT community to answer this question. I would have to get input from members of the community to judge this. I would say no because we are behind the times on issues like gay marriage and we need to catch up as a society. I would say we are ahead of most cities in Austin but we have a ways to go.		As a minority, I understand the struggle most in the LGBT community have. And although more can be done; I do believe that Austin affords enough legal rights and protection to its gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender residents.	I feel we must co-exist; my sister is lesbian and was married in New York. She now lives in Florida. I love unconditional and now I have a sister in law which I adore. As a councilman I will make it my mission to endorse same sex marriage also to educate the love comes from heart no matter who or what you believe.	I see equal opportunity for everyone. Can we do better to address certain issues and concerns? Absolutely. I would support, equal opportunity, legal rights, and protection for all persons. Address hate crimes and activity.	There is never an enough, but we have gone a long way into understanding the nature of the human condition regarding the triad of gender, sex, and orientation.	While we've made great progress on city employees' benefits - except for transsexual surgeries, not many other governmental agencies nor private sector employers have embraced domestic partner benefits - some still don't offer any benefits at all choosing to classify workers as 38 hour per week employees but requiring mandatory overtime and getting away with this shameful practice. Universal Health Care would solve this. We also need to deal with the ancient attitudes about sexual orientation at Austin ISD where bullying and a lack of tolerance has affected many youth and teachers. And I've met many APD employees who say that while Chief Acevedo has worked hard to get rid of bigots in supervisory roles, many LGBQ officers suffer from discrimination and inappropriate harassment. And there have been several violent attacks that should have been prosecuted as hate crimes. Yes, we can do more to teach tolerance.	The City of Austin has one of the most progressive LGBTQ outreach programs and domestic benefits packages. Additionally, the city requires contractors to provide diversity inclusions and benefits for same-sex couples. We always have work to do but Austin does seem ahead of the other major Texas cities.

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<p>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?</p>	<p>Unless we are going to fill with affordable cheap opportunities none. District 3 deserves its green space. I am not a fan of continuing with the density goals. They are a part f the cause for our rising land prices.</p>	<p>This is also a relative question. "Infill" decisions in District 3 have largely taken place downtown, without meaningful consultation or genuine collaboration with indigenous neighborhood groups. One could point to the new apartment and condominium complexes that have been built of late, and the planned development of the East Riverside Corridor, but these discussions still need to be held properly.</p>	<p>Years ago, along E 6th and 7th St., there were empty lots. Now, there are apartments that have mixed income tenants and that has revitalized the neighborhood. The plus is that it brings life back in a part of town that was so desperately lacking. The minus is that it comes with a cost.</p>	<p>Urban Farms, community gardens are some that I'm fond of. However, as far as proper use of open land. I will commit myself in making these lots available for affordable rental home and housing in public land</p>	<p>Currently infill and density plays a big role with how people are living in District 3. People are being pushed out and impacted. I would have to revisit with council the current zoning within District 3.</p>	<p>Now that the people of the districts have finally recovered their lost voice, the next step is making good and ample use of it in the public square. The health of the district is to address simultaneously the improvements of our neighborhoods, the issues of education, and the concerns that people have that are eating them.</p>	<p>The creation of VMU Corridors (vertical mixed-use buildings on commercial streets) is affecting all parts of D3. These projects are creating more high-end homes but their getting increased density and reduced parking is creating traffic and parking on residential streets nearby. VMUs are also raising tax rates for both nearby residents and small local businesses. Two huge infills are Saltillo Rail Transit Oriented Development on 11 acres and the RBJ Senior Residential Tower redevelopment on 18 acres both will increase a pitiful amount of truly affordable housing for folks earning below 50% MFI. Because the feds have slashed subsidies for affordable housing these 2 projects have to offer really high-end units to create a local source subsidy to serve folks at 60% MFI. Both projects do retail/office but it creates more competition for the existing local businesses that suffered thru the booms and busts and are now being driven out of D3 due to high taxes and utility fees.</p>	<p>We have seen much needed apartments along the Riverside corridor in recent months. My plan is to create an Intraurban Opportunity Zone (IOZ) between I-35 and Montopolis on Riverside to encourage developers to build much needed affordable housing units. Such units would be energy efficient and allow for creative engineering near public transit to maintain low and middle income families in East Austin. The plusses of the IOZ are to reduce the loss of African American's and retain Austin's minority culture. The minuses are getting developers, city staff, and groups such as PODER—which strongly opposes development for affordable units—to work together within the Land Development Code for approval of projects.</p>

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<p>Are the needs of downtown Austin and its outlying communities being balanced effectively?</p>	No	<p>Most people in District 3 would answer this question as no. They would say that Austin has developed a cult of density grounded in real estate speculation and in self-serving theories such as New Urbanism, and that District 3 has large lots with lower real estate valuations. They would say that when neighborhoods such as Pemberton Heights and Northwest Hills start to accept infill development at the same planned density levels as Montopolis that we will have begun the process of more truly equitable development.</p>	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes

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Why or why not?	For the past 15 years it has been all about downtown. Not everyone needs to live downtown nor can they afford it. We need to look at urban villages to create density outside of our city core.	It depends. Each case has to be analyzed individually.	I understand that downtown is the heart of the city and the money maker for the city. However, when you go to many parts around the city, they don't feel they get the same love that downtown gets. Hopefully with this new 10-1 system, we will be able to face the needs of those outside of the urban core.	The plan is acceptable but I we must concentrate on making sure the are able to receive proper and effective public safety services. There is also a transportation concern that needs to be addressed.	We need to re-evaluate the transportation needs of the workers coming into the downtown core that are having difficulty with parking when going to work within the downtown area. Let's look at the big picture.	As I just said, Austin has been dominated for too long by the Tarrytown club of successfuls thinking that their experience is sufficient reason to have the business model in place. This model is just left-brain thinking and what we need is whole-brain thinking of the triads paradigm shift above mentioned.	No, downtown sucks up an unfair amount of city services and its PIDs and TIFs created over a decade ago are allowing those property owners to funnel any increase in property taxes from the day the PID or TIF was created to be spent only in those PIDs and TIF districts. And, not all of downtown gets to use those recaptured tax dollars, the Downtown Alliance funded by these tools ends its improvement district at San Antonio Street leaving all the downtown residents east of Lamar without the benefits of a private security force (Downtown Rangers), an advertising budget, and full-time staff to lobby Council. In addition to having its own tax source, they lobby to get extra city resources such as police, parks, libraries, and even have their own community court to make Class C offenders clean their streets, alleys, and parks. Single member districts should end this sweetheart deal and distribute resources equitably across all the 10 districts.	Transportation is a major issue but not one that is solely the ownership of the City of Austin. Round Rock, Buda, Leander, Hutto, Kyle: these are cities that must invest in sound transportation solutions from a regional concept.
Will you vote for or against subsidies to large employers?	Against	In the present post-Domain era, this largely now happens. In addition to	For	Against	Against	For	Against	For
Will you require a total cost-benefit analysis before voting on any subsidies or loans to any businesses?	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

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<p>What are the strengths and weaknesses of Austin's new city district system?</p>	<p>Equal representation across the city is both a strength and weakness. If the right people are not elected it could be an ugly first couple of years. This is the system a strong majority of citizens voted for and we owe it to them to get it right.</p>	<p>It overturned the gentleman's agreement, something that should have happened long ago. The system does have weaknesses: a. Political representation is about a lot more than just geography and b. We should have also switched from the council/manager form of government to a strong mayor.</p>	<p>The strength of 10-1, is now you have representation. You now, better than ever, can go directly to someone and ask for results and demand accountability. The weakness of 10-1 is that there could be the potential of "Ward Politics". That people are looking after their own District's interest and forgetting to see the city as a whole.</p>	<p>The strengths are we all finally are able to have fair representation and accountability along with transparency will be more apparent.</p>	<p>Strengths: I feel that we will create and have more transparency, better communication, and an overall engagement with the citizens of Austin. We will have better representation of a specific area that a council member has to live in.</p>	<p>The strengths of the new city district system are the same as those of a democracy, though its weakness may be the learning curve of having let go of the time proven aristocratic one with all its shortcomings. It's like growing up, but your parents have to let you go and experience by yourself.</p>	<p>Strengths: Less special interest PAC money funding councilmember campaigns enabling real working people to represent people like them. Will eventually move away from the politics of race and focus on geographic equity with moves the conversation towards equity and inclusion creating respect and acknowledging that diversity is an asset. More equitable distribution of city resources. More attention to long-time problems in neighborhoods where people don't vote or complain to code enforcement or police. Increase diversity on the Council AND on the city Boards and Commissions that have a lot of power and control over certain topics and issues with city staff and those elected. Weaknesses: learning curves for new councilmembers who are running without much city hall experience. Prolonged soap-boxing by councilmembers who get elected because they promoted and won on sound bites of fear, hate, and intolerance for the existing and past Councils.</p>	<p>The contribution limits of \$350 per person greatly limits campaigns from hiring the staff needed for a district-wide campaign. The weakness is that this is our first try at the new 10-1 system. We're seeing some candidates make mistakes; the city wasn't adequately prepared to handle questions or ethics complaints. I believe the strength is with the voters who for the first time will elect a representative to city hall from a geographic district.</p>

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Would you entertain any further changes to the system?	Yes	As a Charter Revision Committee member I supported a hybrid and did so afterward as a founding member of Austin Community for change, which fought for adoption of the 8-2-1 approach. While I am fine with 10-1, I think that Austin voters will eventually do what Boston voters did in the early 1980's and will vote for the necessary changes mentioned above.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Do you believe that affordable housing should be distributed throughout the city?	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Do you support the energy and water conservation policies of the City of Austin utilities?	Yes	Yes and no. Conservation is about the achievement of empirical and measurable reductions, not about utility politics. We can do better.	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes