



## 2014 – Austin Mayoral and City Council “Get to Know Your Candidate” Town Hall City Council District 6 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  | James "Jimmy" Flannigan  | Pete Phillips   |
|---|--|---|
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| Campaign E-mail   | <a href="mailto:jimmy@jimmyflannigan.com">jimmy@jimmyflannigan.com</a> | <a href="mailto:pete.phillips@peteforaustin.com">pete.phillips@peteforaustin.com</a>  |
| Campaign Web-site   | <a href="http://www.jimmyflannigan.com">www.jimmyflannigan.com</a>     | <a href="http://www.peteforaustin.com">www.peteforaustin.com</a>  |
| Occupation / Main Source of Income  | Small Business Owner; web design                                       | Texas National Guard  |
| Previous Occupations  | N/A  | Homeland Defense Analyst  |
| Education   | BBA in Management Information Systems, MBA in e-Business1              | BS Political Science  |
| How long have you lived in Austin (Years)?  | 18   | 8   |
| How long have you lived in Texas (Years)?   | 27   | 11  |
| If not a native Austinite, what brought you to move to Austin?  | To attend UT   | Job   |
| Though a non-partisan race, generally, what political party do you associate with or are registered to vote as? | Democratic   | Republican  |
| Previous public offices sought and/or held and when:  | None   | None  |
| What civic organizations do you belong to?  | Austin Chamber of Commerce, Austin Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce | American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Marine Corps Association, Marine Corps Aviation Association, Naval Aviation Association, |
| Have you ever been convicted of a felony?   | No   | No  |
| Have you ever had any civil judgments against you?  | No   | No  |
| Do you belong to your neighborhood or homeowner's association?  | No   | Yes   |
| Have you participated in neighborhood planning?   | No   | No  |
| If yes, how have you participated?  | My neighborhood does not have an association.                          |   |
| What is your favorite book?   | .  | Boyd: The Fighter Pilot Who Changed the Art of War  |
| What is your favorite movie or television series?   | .  | Top Gun   |
| What is your favorite hobby(ies)?   | .  | Photography and volleyball  |

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| <b>What is your favorite thing to do in Austin?</b>  | .   | Explore the greenbelt with my camera   |
| <b>Why are you running for office?</b>   | I've spent my life as a small business owner and chamber of commerce leader, seeing the problems at city hall go unsolved. Now that we have geographic representation, I can actually make substantive change at the city and fix the issues we face.   | I am running for the District 6 City Council Seat because we need leadership that effectively represent the constituency while finding common solutions to issues that impact the entire City of Austin. Good leadership, common sense leadership, leadership that embraces what makes Austin unique. I'm the candidate with the ability to help Austin build stronger communities through sound, unflappable, and innovative leadership.  |
| <b>What are your top three priorities for Austin?</b>  | Sustainable growth (traffic, water, land use), Improve public safety (property crime in D6), Affordability and streamline city government.  | <p>Being a champion for the continued long-term investment in the education, safety and the security of our community and its residents through the 2 Mile Smile.</p> <p>Focus on the promotion of small businesses growth and development while advocating government transparency, fiscal responsibility and most importantly, fiscal restraint</p> <p>Examination of antiquated government regulations that stifle business development and where feasible, lead the path towards elimination</p> |
| <b>Traffic continues to be an increasing problem for many Austinites as they commute to and from work. Is this a top priority for you?</b> | Yes   | Yes  |
| <b>If so, what is your plan to help alleviate some of the traffic problems? If not, why?</b>   | <p>Nearly half of my campaign platform covers solutions to the traffic problem. In the near-term, improvements can be found via technology (improved signal timing, transit routing apps, improved bus service), small-scale infrastructure (pedestrian safety, urban trails, bike paths), and private transportation alternatives (taxis, TNCs, Car2Go). In the mid-term, the road network needs to be improved, including lane additions, creative intersections, and arterial road improvements. In the long-term, we must develop and expand high-capacity alternatives to the road network.</p> <p>However, these improvements only impact the supply-side. Austin must work with the business community to reduce demand through off-peak work hours and telecommuting. Also, land use patterns must be complimentary to transportation investments and provide residents easier access to high-capacity alternatives to driving.</p> | My Two Mile Smile concept, where we encourage the development and building of communities outside the downtown area where people can live, learn, work, and play within two miles of their residence. This is in line with the CodeNEXT and Imagine Austin plan and also addresses traffic congestion as it reduces the need for travel on the major roads because the essentials are within that two mile corridor.   |
| <b>What do you see as the greatest untapped opportunity for economic development in Austin?</b>  | The lack of consistent planning of infrastructure has led Austin to a "just build anywhere" method of growth. This has caused such a gridlock in traffic that it limits the opportunities for future development. We must implement my system of "Connected Corridors" to streamline the process and get the growth targeted to where we can support it.  | The greatest untapped opportunity is with the proposed innovation center and the manufacturing job segment.  |
| <b>Do you think Austin affords enough legal rights and protections to its gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender residents?</b>            | No  | Yes  |
| <b>Why or why not?</b>   | While Austin has done a good job with the "legal rights" portion, there is still more work to do on the "protection" side. This is especially true for hate crimes.   | There are numerous organizations that provide support to the LGBT community in Austin like the AGLCC but there still remains more work to be accomplished. The City of Austin decision to provide insurance to domestic partners was a great first step but I would like to see more benefits provided.  |

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| <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> | The Lakeline station has been totally underutilized. The Transit Oriented Development plan at the city has yet to be finalized. A decade after the Red Line passed at the polls and we still haven't upzoned the area to support infill.   | The new Robinson Ranch development at Parmer and Anderson Mill and the recently completed expansion of the Apple Campus are vital to job growth in District 6 and property values as people move to this area for employment. Although the potential for job growth is vital, the associate traffic problems will continue to stress the inadequate infrastructure making the expansion of roads and other transportation alternatives essential to continued long term development. |
| <b>Are the needs of downtown Austin and its outlying communities being balanced effectively?</b>  | No   | No   |
| <b>Why or why not?</b>  | While the Lakeline station goes underutilized, TOD planning has successfully expanded infill around the Crestview and MLK stations in the urban core. This is just one example of many (property crime and APD resources, park maintenance, sidewalks, traffic planning, etc.) where downtown gets what they need but District 6 goes without. | District has been neglected by the City Council and that is reflected in the lack of city services, infrastructure improvements, and robust long-term development planning. Most of the planning focus has been on Robinson Ranch while other potential areas remain undeveloped.  |
| <b>Will you vote for or against subsidies to large employers?</b>   | Against  | Against  |
| <b>Will you require a total cost-benefit analysis before voting on any subsidies or loans to any businesses?</b>  | Yes  | Yes  |
| <b>What are the strengths and weaknesses of Austin's new city district system?</b>  | It all depends on who we elect. The strengths far outweigh the weaknesses. But we must be sure to balance the district focus with the city-wide view or it will devolve into neighborhood bickering with no progress.  | The most glaring potential weakness associated with the new district system will be the ability of the council to build a consensus amongst the district representatives as they focus on issues associated with their constituency. This is also the strength of the new system, as long neglected areas of Austin will now enjoy a dedicated voice within the halls of government.   |
| <b>Would you entertain any further changes to the system?</b>   | Yes  | Yes  |
| <b>Do you believe that affordable housing should be distributed throughout the city?</b>  | Yes  | Yes  |
| <b>Do you support the energy and water conservation policies of the City of Austin utilities?</b>   | Yes  | No   |