



2014 – Austin Mayoral and City Council “Get to Know Your Candidate” Town Hall City Mayor 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	Mike Martinez	Randall Stephens
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Campaign Web-site	www.mike4mayor.com	www.AustinBlueDog.org
Occupation / Main Source of Income	Austin City Council Member	American Airlines Aircraft Maintenance Technician
Previous Occupations	Austin Firefighter, construction worker	CEO AD&M Advertising www.adbirds.com (Currently)
Education	A graduate of Leadership Austin, Council Member Martinez attended Temple Jr. College, Austin Community College and the University of Texas at Austin. Mike also completed the LBJ School/West Point Military Leadership Academy led by Dr. Michael Lauderdale.	Embry Riddle Aeronautical University A&P program
How long have you lived in Austin (Years)?	26	12
How long have you lived in Texas (Years)?	45	27
If not a native Austinite, what brought you to move to Austin?	When I moved to Austin in 1988, I had dreams of becoming a musician and enjoying everything Austin had to offer. I first worked as a construction worker for \$4.50 an hour and took the bus across town every day to get to work and back home. I was also a student at ACC then, working toward becoming an Austin Firefighter. I came to Austin as soon as I could, and knew right away that this was the City where I would build my future and my family, and it's been an incredible honor to spend the last 22 years dedicating my career to public service in the Austin community.	Transferred with American Airlines
Though a non-partisan race, generally, what political party do you associate with or are registered to vote as?	Democratic	Democratic
Previous public offices sought and/or held and when:	: I currently serve as an Austin City Council Member, and was elected in 2006. During my time as a firefighter, I was elected as the President of the Austin Fire Association in 2003.	Precinct Chairman 2008 as a Republican (recently converted to Dem)
What civic organizations do you belong to?	I'm currently a member of Austin Environmental Democrats, South Austin Democrats, Tejano Democrats, Capital Area Tejano Democrats and a sustaining member of the Travis County Democratic Party.	Austin Independent Business Association
Have you ever been convicted of a felony?	No	No

Name		Mike Martinez	Randall Stephens
Have you ever had any civil judgments against you?	No	No	No
Do you belong to your neighborhood or homeowner's association?	No	Yes	Yes
Have you participated in neighborhood planning?	Yes		
If yes, how have you participated?	Yes, via adoption of neighborhood plans at City Council. Working directly with stakeholders that volunteer countless hours in developing these plans has given me perspective on how valuable our neighborhood advocates are as resources for Council and for our City.		
What is your favorite book?	Tuesday's with Morrie.	Empire Of The Summer Moon by S.C. Gwinne (and whatever book currently reading)	
What is your favorite movie or television series?	Scandal	Dr. Strangelove by Stanley Kubrick (big fan of Peter Sellers)	
What is your favorite hobby(ies)?	Currently, my favorite thing to do is to spend time in the pool with my 2 year old son, Diego. I also have a 16 year old son who is an amazing young man that is a blast to hang out with.	Cycling, Hiking with my wife and dogs, camping and sailing, I am a cross country cyclist and have a blog: www.BicycleTouristClub.org	
What is your favorite thing to do in Austin?	Austin is a vibrant city with so much to offer. I enjoy attending UT football and basketball games, catching live music, and running around Lady Bird Lake whenever I'm able.	Enjoy outdoor activities and music with my wife and friends.	
Why are you running for office?	<p>Austin is an amazing city. We are one of "America's Coolest" cities. We are one of the safest cities. We are the best big city in the United States for jobs, and we are one of the best places in America to raise a family.</p> <p>But Austin is buckling under the weight of its own popularity. Issues like traffic congestion and affordability are only going to increase in importance and complexity as our city grows, prospers and changes in the coming decade.</p> <p>As we work to deal with big challenges, we are fundamentally changing our city's government. At least nine out of eleven of the next Mayor and Council will be new in 2014.</p> <p>I believe that our continued forward movement and advancement as a world-class city depends on the choice we make in this election for Mayor and Council. Austin cannot afford a learn-on-the-job mayor. To protect our progress and effectively address our community's growing pains, we need a smart, experienced mayor who is ready to lead our city on day one.</p>	Frankly, I wanted to make a case for responsible governance and seek to end the practice of loans to campaigns. The current rail bond proposal appears to be designed to adorn real estate projects by investors who donated and loaned huge sums to the current mayor's campaigns. (I will outline deficiencies of Prop. 1 later). And having been an employer in Austin, having taken leadership roles in complex environments since I was a 21-year old Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force until the present day, I am confident in my ability to lead at the Mayoral level.	

Name	Mike Martinez	Randall Stephens
What are your top three priorities for Austin?	<p>Reducing traffic congestion and expanding transportation options are the most important things we can do to improve quality of life for middle class families, protect our environment, and keep Austin economically vibrant. We need an affordable mix of roads, sidewalks, bike paths, bus lanes and rail.</p> <p>Austin is facing an affordability crisis that disproportionately impacts middle class families. Prioritizing their needs as part of every policy decision has been my priority during my time on Council, and will continue to be my priority as your next Mayor. We must work to reduce regressive fees and encourage the legislature to allow cities like Austin to give flat rate homestead exemptions.</p> <p>The number one priority regarding environmental policy is climate protection, which affects water, energy, air quality, and quality of life for our citizens. I believe our most important goal for Austin Energy must be to address climate change while maintaining affordability standards.</p>	<p>Mobility: Move fast in correcting major issues with commuter roads and freeways in Austin.</p> <p>Smart Growth: Inspire Austin leaders to shift development focus for downtown to the peripheral areas outside SH183 and 290, with inexpensive apartments, single family homes and condos, retail and innovation zone attributes.</p> <p>Affordability: Introduce Business-Driven modes of operation to reduce the per capita cost of providing city services while sales tax revenues increase, and pass savings back to taxpayers in the form of lower city property tax rates and service rebates. Getting federal funding for indigent services would help county taxpayers by reducing Emergency Room visits and getting people the treatment they need for addictions and employment preparation, training, etc. Mantra here is; "Shift the load".</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?	Yes	Yes
If so, what is your plan to help alleviate some of the traffic problems? If not, why?	<p>As Chair of the Capital Metro Board of Directors, I helped lead our transit agency out of near financial disaster into a place of fiscal security while expanding services such as Bus Rapid Transit and the Red Line, and the agency has earned national recognition for unparalleled transparency. By providing quality and reliable public transportation, we're able to give our residents alternative options that encourage reduction of single occupancy vehicles on our roads. With now over 34 million trips each year taken by our riders, I would have to say this has been my single most important accomplishment that has helped our transportation goals in Austin. I fully support the overall vision of Project Connect, as well as continuing to improve our multimodal options in Austin. We must continue to view transportation as an integrated system and approach future initiatives in a way that ensures connectivity and access for everyone in our community.</p>	<p>Replace freeway crossing traffic lights with bridges, frontage roads, improved on and off ramps, and turnabouts to route traffic back when bridging is too costly or not otherwise practical. The example is SH71 and Riverside where a bridge now spans SH71 and traffic flows unimpeded. Continue development of the Urban Trails programs in order to use grant money where possible to fund commuter options for cyclists from suburbs to the urban core. More separated bike lanes and pedestrian infrastructure without taking motor vehicle lanes is my mantra. Rail - if we build rail at all, should be elevated so as not to impede traffic on the roads.</p>
What do you see as the greatest untapped opportunity for economic development in Austin?	<p>Our goals with economic development should be centered on serving our local small businesses and providing opportunities for the hard to employ. I have proposed that we expand our economic incentive policy to extend eligibility to small, local, existing businesses that want to grow in our City. They're an essential part of our local culture and vibrant economy; our policies do not currently provide enough opportunities for all of Austin businesses. Our current policy rewards companies that provide additional community benefits such as providing workforce development, implementation of programs to employ and train the hard to employ, healthcare benefits, domestic partner benefits and a commitment to hiring locally. It shouldn't just be about bringing jobs to Austin; we must consider the quality of those jobs and the benefits for the community overall and also continue our commitment to investing in workforce development programs to further expand opportunity for upward mobility.</p>	<p>Our Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ183) could be used to attract more business development at and around ABIA, in concert with the planned "Innovation District" which should be extended to new mixed use developments along SH183 from city limit to city limit. I see a lot of vacant land on ABIA's west side as well as across SH71 and up SH183. The former Bergstrom AFB Golf course land is also prime real estate for hotel and restaurant, and retail which would drive sales tax revenues up for all of Austin the year round.</p>
Do you think Austin affords enough legal rights and protections to its gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender residents?	No	No

Name	Mike Martinez	Randall Stephens
Why or why not?	I answered no because we should always actively look for ways to improve our existing practices to ensure equity and inclusiveness. I'm proud of our City's current anti-discrimination policy, which protects LGBTQ individuals in the work place, housing, and other public areas. Austin is one of the few cities in the state to outlaw discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. This policy protects the livelihood of individuals. I hope it serves as a model for other cities (and Texas as a whole) to adopt and ensure dignity by preventing discrimination in the workplace. I introduced the creation of an LGBTQ Community Liaison at APD during the 2013-14 budget process. This recommendation came directly from the Human Rights Commission and helped Austin achieve a perfect score on the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index. Liaison Charles Loosen works to ensure collaboration, sensitivity, and dignity is being maintained between residents and APD.	
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?		Continued improvements for mobility. I live in District 6, far NW Austin. As a mayoral candidate I see a need to bridge socioeconomic gaps in perception. We need to remember to fix the roads and upgrade infrastructure in every neighborhood, not just the newest and richest. We are only as strong as our weakest links. It is easy to give platitudes such as; "Lions Municipal Golf Course was the first to allow African - Americans a place to play golf in Texas"; but it would be better if private organizations would reach out to form golf and mentoring programs for kids in East and Southeast Austin, and provide the lessons, clubs, and tea times so they could enjoy the sport within school curriculum and earn chances at golf scholarships.
Are the needs of downtown Austin and its outlying communities being balanced effectively?	Yes	No
Why or why not?	Since former Mayor Senator Watson set a goal of having 25,000 Austinites living downtown in an effort to create a vibrant city center and address suburban sprawl, we have dedicated significant resources to improving downtown. Our downtown center is a critical economic engine for Austin which brings in significant tax revenue that helps fund projects and services across the entire City. Recent bond elections have provided additional funds for projects outside of downtown, but I do believe we can come up with a plan to equitably distribute our annual capital improvement budget and on-going department spending even better than we are today. In addition to ensuring equitable City investments in services and capital improvements citywide, we must also continue our efforts to provide affordable housing in every area of Austin. The new district representation will provide a great opportunity for continuing to prioritize those needs.	Over development of downtown has caused so much pressure on our commuter freeways, which are limited in capacity by poor design, and lack of wisdom on part of our civic leaders. The 10-1 City Council will be comprised of more people who realize this, and I hope will work with me as mayor to create a peripheral development plan. We should shift focus to drawing regional and small business employment and give priority for any future incentives to fill vacant existing commercial real estate first, as well as development of affordable and inexpensive housing along far East Austin, South and SE Austin.
Will you vote for or against subsidies to large employers?	For	Against
Will you require a total cost-benefit analysis before voting on any subsidies or loans to any businesses?	Yes	

Name	Mike Martinez	Randall Stephens
What are the strengths and weaknesses of Austin's new city district system?	<p>Austin is facing a historic change with implementation of geographic representation. At least 9 out of 11 members of the upcoming City Council will be new. I believe one of the most important functions of our next Mayor will be to help our almost entirely new Council to be successful in their initiatives to serve their districts and our City as a whole. There may be a learning curve for some, and it will take seasoned experience to help the newly elected body navigate the process.</p> <p>We have some very qualified and engaged candidates running in each and every district, and I believe that we can transition through this new form of government with the best City Council we have ever seen, ensuring we all understand that implementing successful citywide policy is the entire Council's responsibility. Our government is about to be turned completely over to its citizens, as it should be. I believe this change is long overdue, and that Austin will be an even better City for it.</p>	<p>The new city council will be represented. We have an excellent slate of qualified and talented candidates running for city council. I am excited about the prospect of working with them.</p> <p>The next mayor will need to balance decisions and build support across the board. I have had the experience of doing that in my work and business life for the last 35 years and hope to be that mayor for all of Austin.</p>
Would you entertain any further changes to the system?	Yes	Yes
Do you believe that affordable housing should be distributed throughout the city?	Yes	Yes
Do you support the energy and water conservation policies of the City of Austin utilities?	Yes	Yes



2014 – Austin Mayoral and City Council “Get to Know Your Candidate” Town Hall City Council District 1 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	Michael Cargill	Ora Houston	Valerie Menard
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Occupation / Main Source of Income	Small Business Owner	Retired	Writer/editor
Previous Occupations	Small Business Owner	Program Manager	Magazine editor
Education	2 Years College	Huston-Tillotson University	BA-English, BJ-Journalism
How long have you lived in Austin (Years)?	15	60	32
How long have you lived in Texas (Years)?	18	60	52
If not a native Austinite, what brought you to move to Austin?	Military Assignment	Father worked at Samuel Huston College	UT
Though a non-partisan race, generally, what political party do you associate with or are registered to vote as?	Republican	Democratic	Democratic
Previous public offices sought and/or held and when:	Sought County Constable	Austin Independent School District - 1982	NA
What civic organizations do you belong to?	N/A	President, Myra McDaniel Chapter, Union of Black Episcopalians, Life member of the NAACP, Austin Alumni Chapter - Huston-Tillotson University	Center for Mexican American Cultural Arts
Have you ever been convicted of a felony?	No	No	No
Have you ever had any civil judgments against you?	No	No	No
Do you belong to your neighborhood or homeowner's association?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Have you participated in neighborhood planning?	Yes	Yes	No

Name	Michael Cargill	Ora Houston	Valerie Menard
If yes, how have you participated?	I attend the meetings so I am informed and can give my input. Sought	I was vice-chair of the Upper Boggy Creek planning team.	
What is your favorite book?	Interview with a Vampire	The Heart of Whiteness by Robert Jensen	Pride and Prejudice
What is your favorite movie or television series?	Will & Grace	NCIS	The Big Bang Theory
What is your favorite hobby(ies)?	Chess	Bird-watching and gardening	Watching The Big Bang Theory.
What is your favorite thing to do in Austin?	Dog park with my dogs	The quietness of my house	Discovering new restaurants.
Why are you running for office?	<p>Austin is continually growing and we must end the indecisiveness of the City Council. We must work with the community and experts to develop a comprehensive traffic plan that includes rerouting commercial trucks, reversible lanes, and encouraging alternative work schedules.</p> <p>The City Council should engage county and state government, and local businesses in its efforts to encourage working from home, telecommuting, carpooling, the use of public transportation and staggering work hours to drastically reduce congestion on Austin's roadways without limiting the public's access to services.</p> <p>Restructuring bus routes and bus stops could improve the public's access to transportation for commuting to work and at the same time relieve traffic congestion.</p>	<p>All of my adult life I have been a public servant. My desire to represent the people of District #1 is an extension of who I have been and who I will continue to be. Over the years I have had an opportunity to watch many changes in our city, some good, some not so good, and some with unintended consequences which have had a negative impact on many people. The change this November to geographical representation on the City Council (10-1) will provide an opportunity for different voices to contribute to the vision, history, and experience of the city and explore creative solutions to the complex issues Austin faces.</p>	<p>I'm inspired by the spirit of single-member districts that embraces new leadership by casting a wider net and opening the process by lowering the cost of political campaigns. District 1 has long been ignored by City Hall and anticipate the chance to represent my neighbors.</p>
What are your top three priorities for Austin?	<p>Traffic & Public Transportation</p> <p>Preserving Life through Safe Neighborhoods & Communities</p> <p>Environment & Water</p>	<p>Workforce housing throughout Austin, escalating property taxes, and transportation.</p>	<p>1) Reducing the property tax burden on homeowners by adopting a homestead exemption. 2) Reducing traffic congestion. 3) Increase access to city services in District 1</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?	Yes	Yes	Yes

Name	Michael Cargill	Ora Houston	Valerie Menard
If so, what is your plan to help alleviate some of the traffic problems? If not, why?	<p>The City Council should engage county and state government, and local businesses in its efforts to encourage working from home, telecommuting, carpooling, the use of public transportation and staggering work hours to drastically reduce congestion on Austin's roadways without limiting the public's access to services.</p> <p>Restructuring bus routes and bus stops could improve the public's access to transportation for commuting to work and at the same time relieve traffic congestion.</p> <p>Let's roll, Austin!</p>	<p>The focus must be shifted to getting people into the Central Business District rather than moving through the district. The growth concept map shows that most of the growth will be east and northeast, and if we could encourage people to leave their cars at home or at a park and ride, and utilize public transportation, traffic congestion will be mitigated.</p>	<p>I plan to begin by working with Capital Metro to increase bus service and routes into District 1. I will work to bring economic development to District 1 that is compatible with neighborhoods so folks can stay in their neighborhoods to access basic services rather than having to travel across town, e.g. grocery shopping, restaurants, movies, etc., as well as the much needed employment opportunities. Efforts to rewrite the land development code as part of CodeNext will be integral. I will also ask to serve on the Comprehensive Planning and Transportation Committee to begin to encourage TxDot to open toll roads to reduce congestion, e.g. toll-free Fridays.</p>
What do you see as the greatest untapped opportunity for economic development in Austin?	<p>With the State Capitol located in District 1, and my successful history of lobbying the State Legislature, I'm confident that I can bring the resources needed to elevate District 1 by bringing more funds to the City of Austin. We have a moral obligation to give children and adults the tools they need to succeed in today's complex world.</p>	<p>Manufacturing jobs in District #1.</p>	<p>District 1. It's a large district, 45 square miles, with more open acreage than any other district. We have only two grocery stores to serve this entire area and a limited number of restaurants and other retail and service businesses to serve the residents.</p>
Do you think Austin affords enough legal rights and protections to its gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender residents?	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>
Why or why not?	<p>Yes but they State can do a lot better. We can use City Council as a bully pull pit to the State</p>	<p>This is a question that you must answer for me. I think that the City of Austin has made strides: I remember the public service announcements with LGBTQ officers from the Austin Police Department sharing their stories; and that the City passed domestic partner benefits seven or eight years ago. However, as I am not a member of the LGBTQ community, I would need to base my assessment off of conversations with members of the community.</p>	<p>While Austin prides itself on its progressiveness, I know that as a person of color, that's not always true and I'm guessing that the same is true for the LGBT community. I look forward to hearing more about the issues of concern among LGBT residents.</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>I don't have any issues with infill projects as long as they do not create gentrification.</p>	<p>The major health and safety concern for District #1 is the landfill off of 290. If you are aware of infill projects in the District, I would like to have a conversation about those.</p>	<p>I recently heard that there are plans to build another golf course in District 1, we already have one, . If so, I'm not a fan. Golf courses are big water guzzlers and cause chemical runoff into the water supply. On the plus side, Colony Park represents how good planning and research into federal funding for sustainable communities can help. We also have the cultural district along East 11th and more coming for MLK, Coronado Hills, and other parts of District 1.</p>
Are the needs of downtown Austin and its outlying communities being balanced effectively?	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>

Name	Michael Cargill	Ora Houston	Valerie Menard
Why or why not?	The urban rail project that is being forced on us, is really designed to help keep congestion from forming around the old Highland Mall and from there to downtown. There is no current problem there that exists which will be solved by this light rail project. They are not addressing current areas with high congestion so, this tells me they are going to use up all of our money to try and prevent a speculative problem and leave the rest of us on our own with no traffic relief.	The focus for the past 20 years has been on the expansion of the Central Business District into historic East Austin. With the development of the medical school district, innovation zone district, entertainment district, Waller Creek district; and with all of the city, county and state governments in the Central Business District, the core of Austin has received most of the attention. The outlying neighborhoods outside of the Central Business District have received little attention, and it is time to recalibrate the priorities.	City planning has focused on central Austin, since 1928 when communities of color were pushed to the east side of town. Now that downtown has extended into East Austin, those neighborhoods have been gentrified forcing these communities out of generational homes due to rising property taxes, and further east. This continued focus on the city's central core continues to ignore outlying communities, exacerbating issues like lack of city services, growing economic disparity, traffic congestion, etc.
Will you vote for or against subsidies to large employers?	Against	Against	For
Will you require a total cost-benefit analysis before voting on any subsidies or loans to any businesses?	Yes	Yes	Yes
What are the strengths and weaknesses of Austin's new city district system?	We shall see once the new district leadership is in place.	The 10-1 city district system allows every resident of Austin to be educated and encouraged to participate in the decisions that are made regarding the quality of their lives. The weakness is that we have a window of opportunity to pivot to an inclusive form of government, or we will slip back into the way it has always been because that is what we have known, and that is what feels comfortable. We need to make that shift and take advantage of this window of opportunity, so that every voice in Austin will be represented.	The chief strength is that Austin will have true representative government for the first time. The greatest weakness will be the threat of gridlock. We will have to work together to continue to move Austin forward.
Would you entertain any further changes to the system?	Yes	No	No
Do you believe that affordable housing should be distributed throughout the city?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Do you support the energy and water conservation policies of the City of Austin utilities?	No	No	Yes



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2014 – Austin Mayoral and City Council “Get to Know Your Candidate” Town Hall City Council District 2 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	Delia Garza	John C. Sheppard
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Occupation / Main Source of Income	Attorney	REALTOR
Previous Occupations	Firefighter/EMT-B	El Lago Tortillas / Assistant Sgt at Arms for Texas House of Representatives
Education	B.S and J.D	approx. 60 college hours (UT & ACC), I have also completed hundreds of hours of Real Estate courses and am certified as an instructor by the Texas Real Estate Commission
How long have you lived in Austin (Years)?	12	30
How long have you lived in Texas (Years)?	36	40
If not a native Austinite, what brought you to move to Austin?	I fell in love with Austin when I visited during college.	My dad was looking for a job! (it was Summer before 5th grade for me)
Though a non-partisan race, generally, what political party do you associate with or are registered to vote as?	Democratic	Democratic
Previous public offices sought and/or held and when:	None	this is my 1st time
What civic organizations do you belong to?	Dove Springs Recreation Center Advisory Board Hermanos de East Austin Seedling Foundation Mentor	Austin Board of REALTORS Salem Walk Association of Neighbors South Austin Optimists Texas Democratic Party
Have you ever been convicted of a felony?	No	No
Have you ever had any civil judgments against you?	No	No

Name	Delia Garza	John C. Sheppard
Do you belong to your neighborhood or homeowner's association?	No	Yes
Have you participated in neighborhood planning?	Yes	Yes
If yes, how have you participated?	<p>Regarding the previous question and not belonging to my neighborhood or homeowner's association, I am not a member because I do not live in an area with either of those types of organizations.</p> <p>I have attended several Southeast Contact Team Meetings and City Council meetings regarding neighborhood planning.</p>	I was president of our N.A. and have attended meetings regarding zoning, bike lanes, etc.
What is your favorite book?	I don't really have a favorite book but autobiographies are my favorite and the last one I read was My Beloved World by Sonia Sotomayor and I enjoyed it.	To Kill a Mockingbird- closely followed by Tom Sawyer & The Fountainhead
What is your favorite movie or television series?	Orange is the New Black	old movie - Lawrence of Arabia (especially if you can see it on the big screen, like at the Paramount), more modern- Real Men (Jim Belushi/John Ritter a duo of comedic geniuses) / old TV -Seinfeld, new TV - Always Sunny in Philadelphia
What is your favorite hobby(ies)?	Running	I enjoy my veggie garden immensely, though I don't give it the attention it deserves, I also love going fishing, or to the beach when I can.
What is your favorite thing to do in Austin?	Running or volleyball in Zilker Park	chips & salsa & a drink on the patio (used to be at Jaime's on Red River, but lot's of options I've been exploring since they closed
Why are you running for office?	As the daughter of a firefighter and stay-at-home mom, I learned firsthand the value of serving the community early on. My father, who began his career as a migrant farm worker as a child, and my mother were very involved in their community and encouraged their three daughters to give back and pursue higher education. My upbringing inspired me to dedicate my career to public service and advocate for working families. Through years of public service to the Austin community, I've been able to see firsthand that there are areas that have been neglected for far too long. This was one of the biggest inspirations that drove me to work tirelessly to get 10-1 passed to ensure that Austinites would finally be fairly represented. I want to be a strong voice for the residents in District 2 that deserve to have someone fighting on their behalf to ensure equitable delivery of City services and advocate for policies that protect quality of life for all of Austin.	I am running for Austin City Council because I will be the council member that fights for South Austin (Dist2), but always also, I will always work for the consensus that is right. I am a candidate that is not beholden to any special interest groups and I will represent a change from the politics as usual on the city council dais- a change away from the councils of the past that have been bought and sold by the same cliques that placate voters, and then ignore them .
What are your top three priorities for Austin?	Addressing the affordability issue, traffic congestion, and ensuring smart, sustainable growth and economic development.	Public Safety, Affordability, Mobility.
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

Name	Delia Garza	John C. Sheppard
If so, what is your plan to help alleviate some of the traffic problems? If not, why?	Our approach to transportation in the future has to be multimodal, ensuring that we're meeting the needs of all Austinites. I support adding a rail option but do not support Prop. 1. Capital Metro has really ignored South Austin and we need to go back to the drawing table with the Project Connect Vision (done under the current council system that ignored South Austin). One quick way to improve traffic is a better and efficient bus service. We need more busses, better routes, extended service, and dedicated bus lanes. We could also do more to encourage employers to offer alternate work schedules and they could also provide reduced bus fare passes. Lastly, it's also very important when we are planning for growth (Imagine Austin), we are making sure the proper infrastructure (roads) are in place so that we aren't overburdening existing corridors with new traffic created by new neighborhoods.	"Traffic" implies that everyone is in or has, or wants a car. At the risk of channeling Nietzsche via Eddie Murphy in 'Coming to America', You must first stand and walk, and run and dance before you fly, one cannot fly into flying." First we must solve our sidewalk crisis- some neighborhoods have been waiting on them for decades! Then, we need to examine our trail & bike systems, expand our bus routes (especially the frequency of routes, and the lack of late night early / early morning routes). The lack of busses between midnight and early morning ignores the fact that many tech workers have overnight work schedules and that a huge number of Austinites (especially in Dist2) work downtown and need a safe ride home.
What do you see as the greatest untapped opportunity for economic development in Austin?	I think the renewable energy industry, such as solar panels, is an untapped opportunity for economic development. I also believe the South Austin has been ignored with regards to planning economic corridors and would push for some growth and economic opportunities in Southeast Austin.	Our film industry needs to be encouraged further- not just a movie here or there, shot in surrounding rural communities and say that it's "made in Austin".
Do you think Austin affords enough legal rights and protections to its gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender residents?	No	No
Why or why not?	I think in any government process, there is always room for improvement. I am committed to supporting efforts to increase sensitivity training for all of our public safety agencies and City departments, and improve resources and protections for our LGBTQ community.	I don't think Austin affords enough legal rights and protections to the majority of its citizens, but because I have never lived in Austin as a member of the LGBT community, it would be presumptuous for me to make that assessment. However, I do know that Austin is one of the most progressive cities in the country, and if it's not the best place to live, and let live for anyone- then we need to make it so.
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?	I can't think of any infill projects that are "vital to the health of and success" of my district. I understand the concerns about infill. Neighborhood plans are formed after many hours of volunteer input and collaboration, and should be held in the highest regard. I believe it's appropriate to require a supermajority for zoning changes that override neighborhood plans. Infill options should be true options and all stakeholders should have the opportunity to give input.	Austin Energy has proposed a campus on Ben White that will cost at least \$60 million dollars. We need to explore the use of the old AMD campus being repurposed for this- it's unfair to tax payers not to. Also, District 2 is the largest (geographically) of all the 10 districts- there is ample opportunity for development, done correctly, and more importantly, there is a need for more retail, especially grocery store options.
Are the needs of downtown Austin and its outlying communities being balanced effectively?	No	No
Why or why not?	District 2 has long been neglected. We have some basic needs such as sidewalks. I understand why Downtown gets most of the attention, but this new move to the 10-1 system will give Southeast some long overdue attention.	No, the city council of the past 20+ years has been heavily tilted towards a downtown first mentality. Even the council members that have hailed from South Austin have been part of the same downtown / Tarrytown / real estate speculator cliques that give lip service to different groups, but have obvious priorities that don't coincide with the majority of Austinites.
Will you vote for or against subsidies to large employers?	Against	Against

Name	Delia Garza	John C. Sheppard
Will you require a total cost-benefit analysis before voting on any subsidies or loans to any businesses?	Yes	Yes
What are the strengths and weaknesses of Austin's new city district system?	<p>With regards to the question on subsidies for large employers, I don't think it is fair to ask for a simple For or Against response. I would have preferred an "It depends" option. The issue of subsidies is a complex issue with many moving parts. I believe each case should be taken on a case-by-case issue. The current economic incentive plan is a great step in the right direction in requiring certain things (number of local jobs, living wage, etc.) from companies before incentives are granted. I think subsidies are a tool that can be used to strengthen our economy but we must be judicious in granting them.</p> <p>Regarding 10-1, I see only strengths. I was part of the organization that petitioned and campaigned for 10-1. This is a huge step in the right direction in giving Austinites fair representation and bringing a voice to many areas of Austin that have been long neglected.</p>	<p>The new geographic system is long overdue- if not for the paternalistic 'gentleman's agreement' of the past 3+ decades, it would have been overturned long ago by the courts. The new geo system will be great if it elects new voices and new ideas with concern for their parts of town- if it elects the same old same old group of insiders and their cronies, then it will simply serve as a cheap cosmetic that gives us the illusion of change.</p>
Would you entertain any further changes to the system?	Yes	Yes
Do you believe that affordable housing should be distributed throughout the city?	Yes	Yes
Do you support the energy and water conservation policies of the City of Austin utilities?	Yes	Yes



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
Campaign Phone	512-584-7955	512-275-6027	512-736-7887	512-524-1050	000-000-0000	512-743-3054	512-649-6465	512-569-9282
Campaign E-mail	christopher@christopher4a.tx.org	fred@fredmcghee.com	Eric@voterangel.com	julianlimonfernandez@gmail.com	mario@cantufordistrict3.com	ricturbon@gmail.com	D3forPio@gmail.com	shaun@shaunireland.com
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

Name	Christopher Hoerster	Dr. Fred L. McGhee	Eric J. Rangel	Julian Limon Fernandez	Mario Cantu	Ricardo Turullols-Bonilla	Sabino 'Pio' Renteria	Shaun Ireland
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 Draffhouse

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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.

Name	Christopher Hoerster	Dr. Fred L. McGhee	Eric J. Rangel	Julian Limon Fernandez	Mario Cantu	Ricardo Turullols-Bonilla	Sabino 'Pio' Renteria	Shaun Ireland
<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>

Name	Christopher Hoerster	Dr. Fred L. McGhee	Eric J. Rangel	Julian Limon Fernandez	Mario Cantu	Ricardo Turullols-Bonilla	Sabino 'Pio' Renteria	Shaun Ireland
<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

Name	Christopher Hoerster	Dr. Fred L. McGhee	Eric J. Rangel	Julian Limon Fernandez	Mario Cantu	Ricardo Turullols-Bonilla	Sabino 'Pio' Renteria	Shaun Ireland
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

Name	Christopher Hoerster	Dr. Fred L. McGhee	Eric J. Rangel	Julian Limon Fernandez	Mario Cantu	Ricardo Turullols-Bonilla	Sabino 'Pio' Renteria	Shaun Ireland
<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>

Name	Christopher Hoerster	Dr. Fred L. McGhee	Eric J. Rangel	Julian Limon Fernandez	Mario Cantu	Ricardo Turullols-Bonilla	Sabino 'Pio' Renteria	Shaun Ireland
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



2014 – Austin Mayoral and City Council “Get to Know Your Candidate” Town Hall City Council District 4 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	Laura Pressley	Louis C. Herrin, III	Sharon Mays
Campaign Phone	512-762-3825	512-567-9489	512-553-4195
Campaign E-mail	PureRainLaura@aol.com	lchiii@stic.net	Info@Sharon4Austin.com
Campaign Web-site	www.PressleyforAustin.com	www.lousherrin.com	www.Sharon4Austin.com
Occupation / Main Source of Income	Owner, Pure Rain, LLC	Civil/Environmental Engineer	Marketing consultant/Realtor
Previous Occupations	Engineer and Manager at Freescale Semiconductor, Inc.	Student	Marketing manager; entrepreneur (owned Baby Greens)
Education	Ph.D. Physical Chemistry	Bachelor of Science	Bachelor's degree in Public Relations
How long have you lived in Austin (Years)?	26	33	38
How long have you lived in Texas (Years)?	51	58	41
If not a native Austinite, what brought you to move to Austin?	UT Grad School in 1988	Not wanting to work in Houston	My family moved to Austin when I was 4 because my father was promoted at IBM.
Though a non-partisan race, generally, what political party do you associate with or are registered to vote as?	Democratic	Republican	Democratic
Previous public offices sought and/or held and when:	Austin City Council, Place 2 Against Mike Martinez	none	None
What civic organizations do you belong to?	Austin Neighborhoods Council, Windsor Hills Neighborhood Association, Restore Rundberg Team, ANC Subcommittee of the Land Development Code Rewrite, ANC Affordability Subcommittee	Boy Scouts of America	North Austin YMCA, board member North Austin Community Garden, chair Austin Food & Wine Alliance, events volunteer Love-A-Bull, Foster Mom PAST: Dress for Success Austin, steering committee Rock the Vote, radio advisory board member Communities in Schools, career day speaker Lemonade Day Austin, volunteer
Have you ever been convicted of a felony?	No	No	No

Name	Laura Pressley	Louis C. Herrin, III	Sharon Mays
Have you ever had any civil judgments against you?	No	No	No
Do you belong to your neighborhood or homeowner's association?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Have you participated in neighborhood planning?	Yes	No	No
If yes, how have you participated?	I'm a member of my Contact Team and President of my Neighborhood Association, Windsor Hills. I've participated in many of the CodeNEXT exercises, testified to the City Council Comprehensive Planning and Transportation Committee on Zoning and Neighborhood Plans.		
What is your favorite book?	Power of Intention	Science Fiction	Whispers - Dean Koontz
What is your favorite movie or television series?	Out of Africa	Superman / NCIS	Seinfeld
What is your favorite hobby(ies)?	Antiques	Woodwork	cooking, shopping, gardening, socializing
What is your favorite thing to do in Austin?	Be at Barton Springs	Entertainment - Movies, special events	I'm a person who is 'up for anything'. If it's something fun to do, I'm in. And if there's music and or food involved, I'll be first in line.
Why are you running for office?	To improve our affordability.	I want to hold the city council accountable for doing the business of the city and stop promoting small special interest groups. They need to serve the city as a whole.	I'm a business and community leader who has been a manager of people and projects for 20 yrs. My background and commitment to Austin is what we need on city council. Austin is a great city and I'm proud to call it my hometown. Our priorities and resources are not supporting the crucial needs of our community. In District 4 we lack basic resources: sidewalks, bike lanes, crosswalks, a decent library, access to health care. We have challenges AND opportunities. We need a strong leader to get the district onto its feet. We must elect leaders who have a global view of Austin and won't get entrenched in a turf war. The districts are a great opportunity for local representation. It will take experienced leaders to work together, service the needs of our residents, and chart a path for the future of Austin that manages growth and builds an infrastructure that will support it. I am running for office because I have the leadership experience needed to represent District 4 at City Hall.

Name	Laura Pressley	Louis C. Herrin, III	Sharon Mays
What are your top three priorities for Austin?	<p>IMPROVE AFFORDABILITY--Austinites deserve to thrive in Austin. We will implement cost controls in utility departments, lower utility fees, develop a City of Austin Homestead Exemption and reduce subsidies to big corporations. These reductions will help homeowners and renters. A Homestead Exemption will enable more renters to become homeowners and build wealth for them and their families.</p> <p>PROTECT OUR NEIGHBORHOODS--Integrity and safety of our neighborhoods is key. We will protect our quality of life and ensure EMS, Fire and Police have the resources they need.</p> <p>PROVIDE REAL TRAFFIC SOLUTIONS--Efficient roadways lead the way to progress. We will optimize bus routes, traffic light timing, staggered work and class schedules, roadway and ramp design to improve mobility.</p>	<p>My top three priorities are transportation, affordable housing, and streamline City government.</p>	<p>Affordability Transportation Public Safety</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>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>
If so, what is your plan to help alleviate some of the traffic problems? If not, why?	<p>We will optimize bus routes, traffic light timing, staggered work and class schedules, roadway and ramp design to improve mobility.</p>	<p>We need to build more roads which is not a popular option with some Austinites. We need to put in things to move traffic along. I would support constructing new toll roads that once the roads are paid for the tolls will go away.</p>	<p>Beyond whatever happens with Prop 1, we need to improve Capital Metro so that it goes to more locations and runs more efficiently. The buses should also run until 3 a.m. to/from downtown on the weekends. DWI accidents and fatalities are frighteningly high in Austin. We need to provide alternatives to people driving downtown. There are many bus stops that don't have sidewalk access, seating or shade/shelter. If we want people to use public transportation instead of their cars we have to make it safe and convenient. City of Austin should consider having work from home days and staggered shifts to help reduce the amount of cars on the road during peak travel times.</p>

Name	Laura Pressley	Louis C. Herrin, III	Sharon Mays
What do you see as the greatest untapped opportunity for economic development in Austin?	GROW OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES--Spend more of our tax dollars locally. We will increase the number of City contracts awarded to local businesses.	I think the greatest untapped opportunity could be training and promoting our unskilled labor force.	Small businesses are the key to the success of Austin. We have a thriving community of entrepreneurs and startups that are creating innovation and new jobs. The boom of restaurants in Austin has increased food tourism and the revenue generated by hotel taxes. Small businesses would benefit from a fraction of the support/resources that the city has given to out-of-town corporations. The return on the investment would be better. In District 4, we have an abundance of affordable and available commercial real estate that currently sits empty and blighted. If would could encourage and incentivize small/local businesses to come into our neighborhoods it would help revitalize the neighborhood, bring job opportunities, push out the low-level crime that happening in the parking lots, and provide shopping opportunities that we could access without getting on a major highway.
Do you think Austin affords enough legal rights and protections to its gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender residents?	No	Yes	No
Why or why not?	Not sure...need more information on how the current local, state and federal laws are possibly not addressing the needs for our gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community in Austin.	I feel that they have all the same rights as anyone else living in Austin.	Violence acted out against the LBGT community is not treated with enough seriousness by the police department. Crimes go un-investigated and unpunished. There are not adequate policies in place to protect against job and housing discrimination. Though Austin is seen as liberal, prejudice lives and thrives here. As citizens of the United States, we are guaranteed equal rights. It is the duty of all level of governments to support and enforce that right.
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?	We have a lot of undeveloped land in District 4 and we have a lot of opportunity for increasing single family and density development projects. We must balance these opportunities and make sure growth pays for itself and not provide subsidies and fee waivers to developers at the expense of our taxes increasing.	I am not aware of any infill projects other than the revitalization of Highland Mall to the Austin Community College campus and the Restore Rundberg project. I think both of these projects are going to encourage more business to this area which in turn creates jobs.	North Austin YMCA and the North Austin Community Garden are both great infill projects that have benefited District 4. Vacant land became a community center that is available to the public. There is a computer lab and a kids activity space, both free to the public. The YMCA also subsidizes many programs and memberships to the community. The community garden is an organic garden which allows people to fresh, organic produce that they might not be able to afford to purchase. It's also a beautiful public green space in a neighborhood that is densely populated and has blighted areas. The ACC Highland campus is another great infill project. It converted a semi-abandoned mall into a hi-tech college campus. There are plans for additional retail development of the space.
Are the needs of downtown Austin and its outlying communities being balanced effectively?	No	No	No

Name	Laura Pressley	Louis C. Herrin, III	Sharon Mays
Why or why not?	My District 4 has been forgotten for decades with regard to resources for police, libraries, and parks.	I believe the City is putting all of its resources in promoting high rises and the Mueller development project. They are not really looking at the rest of the community.	District 4 is one of the most densely populated areas of Austin, but we lack basic infrastructure. Sidewalks, bike lanes, cross walks, access to health care - these are all lacking. The same is true in various other parts of Austin. I was recently told by a city official that there isn't money for sidewalks. I pointed out that the 2nd Street District was recently given "great sidewalks" that are wide with trees and benches. The same is being done on Brazos street. Neither of these areas is densely populated or used by a large population of tax-paying residents. The priority of our city needs to be making sure that basic resources are equally distributed across the city. Every day I see women with small children walking on the side of Lamar Blvd without the protection of a sidewalk or any barrier. That is ridiculous and completely inappropriate.
Will you vote for or against subsidies to large employers?	Against	Against	Against
Will you require a total cost-benefit analysis before voting on any subsidies or loans to any businesses?	Yes	Yes	Yes
What are the strengths and weaknesses of Austin's new city district system?	Strengths--Geographical Representation for areas of the City that have been neglected for some time, such as District 4 the Rundberg and St. Johns, areas. Weaknesses--Ward politics may result.	Strengths: All sections of the City will be represented. The City as a whole will have a voice in City government. Weaknesses: The way some of the districts are outlined, there may not be many changes because some of the sections of the City may still not have enough votes to get things done.	The big strength of the new council will be better representation of the entire city at City Hall. There are areas of Austin that have never been included in the discussion when decisions are being made about the future of the community. The new district diluted the "he who raises the most money wins" tactic, which resulted in candidates of various backgrounds running for office. The challenge will be how will this new council work together? Council members with tunnel vision will only see how issues affect their district, which could create a turf war. With 11 voting members, power cliques could form that only support a particular agenda. Overall, I'm hopeful that this new system is going to great for Austin. It's important that the council we elect in November has the experience and acumen to get the job done.
Would you entertain any further changes to the system?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Do you believe that affordable housing should be distributed throughout the city?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Do you support the energy and water conservation policies of the City of Austin utilities?	Yes	Yes	Yes



2014 – Austin Mayoral and City Council “Get to Know Your Candidate” Town Hall City Council District 5 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	Ann Kitchen	Dan Buda	Jason Denny	Dave Floyd	Dave Senecal
Campaign Phone	512--774--7454	512-663-1673	512-767-8644	512-590-1470	512-387-1123
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Campaign Web-site	www.kitchenforaustin.com	www.danbuda.com	www.dennyfordistrict5.org	www.floydfor5.com	www.davesenecalatx5.com/
Occupation / Main Source of Income	Healthcare Consultant & Attorney	Realtor/Property Manager	Texas General Land Office	lawyer/consultant/business owner	Computer Systems Tech
Previous Occupations	Assistant Attorney General	Chief of Staff, Sen. Wendy Davis; Committee Director, Sen. Mario Gallegos	Marine	general counsel/owner of insurance business	Control Engineer
Education	J.D. University of Texas; BA Psychology / Social Welfare	Bachelors in Economics, University of Michigan	Marine Corps	UT-Austin, BA; Washington & Lee University JD 03	BSEE from UT @ Austin
How long have you lived in Austin (Years)?	35	8	10	22	35
How long have you lived in Texas (Years)?	58	8	37	26	35
If not a native Austinite, what brought you to move to Austin?	UT	Climate, Economy	Marine Corps	dad moved here to work at Texas Municipal League	Family and School
Though a non-partisan race, generally, what political party do you associate with or are registered to vote as?	Democratic	Democratic	Republican	Democratic	Independent
Previous public offices sought and/or held and when:	State Representative, D48	Member, Austin Impact Fee Advisory Committee, July 2009-December 2011	None	Dem Precinct Chair- 2005	None

Name	Ann Kitchen	Dan Buda	Jason Denny	Dave Floyd	Dave Senecal
What civic organizations do you belong to?	Currently – TexHealth Central Texas, Livable City	n/a	Military Veterans Employment Network, Austin Junior Chamber, Community Advocates for a Safer Austin	Young Mens Business League, Austin Young Chamber of Commerce, Engage ATX, Austin Young Lawyers Association, The Creative Fund	Sierra club, Lake Travis Clean up, Texas Association of Sports Officials, Various Live Art venues in volunteer capacity.
Have you ever been convicted of a felony?	No	No	No	No	No
Have you ever had any civil judgments against you?	No	No	No	No	No
Do you belong to your neighborhood or homeowner's association?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Have you participated in neighborhood planning?	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
If yes, how have you participated?	Our neighborhood recently experienced a tragic accident which has spurred planning to address cut-through traffic and high rate of speed on the major street running through the neighborhood. Goal is to improve safety particularly for area around the elementary school and potentially improve bike infrastructure.	I have attended Planning Commission meetings, especially on the South Austin Combined Neighborhood Plan.	I am the watch commander for my neighborhood watch		N/A
What is your favorite book?	No Answer	Dante's Inferno	Hunt for Red October	Americana	None
What is your favorite movie or television series?	No Answer	The Empire Strike Back	The Good Wife	Archer	Shawshank Redemption
What is your favorite hobby(ies)?	No Answer	Guitar, piano, tennis, soccer	Baseball	photography, cycling, hiking	Hiking
What is your favorite thing to do in Austin?	No Answer	People watch during SXSW	Enjoying our beautiful parks	acting in amateur lawyer musical comedy	Volunteer at live theater and music events

Name	Ann Kitchen	Dan Buda	Jason Denny	Dave Floyd	Dave Senecal
<p>Why are you running for office?</p>	<p>I am running to offer my experience at a critical time for our city, when at least 9 out of 10 council members will be new and the city is facing critical challenges, largely stemming from our rapid growth.</p> <p>In the 20+ years I have lived in South Austin, I have dedicated my life to taking an active role in improving our community. As a former State Legislator and advocate for people, I have represented much of District 5 and know how to effectively work with and listen to the people of South Austin. This campaign is about taking care of our home, our neighbors, protecting what we love about Austin, and making a better city for the people of Austin.</p> <p>Together we have an opportunity with a new government and climate of change, to bring everybody together from all parts of the city to take on tough issues - and make this a city that offers opportunity for everybody.</p>	<p>With the new 10-1 council system, it is important to elect council members who have experience in public policy-making and believe in providing constituents a voice. I spent six years at the State Capitol over the past four legislative sessions, as both a Chief of Staff to Sen. Wendy Davis and a Committee Director for Sen. Mario Gallegos, working on policy relevant to the challenges facing Austin, including public education, transportation, property tax appraisal reform, payday lending reform, and public safety. I believe my substantial policy experience and work in bringing people to find consensus and move policy forward will be an asset to the new council.</p>	<p>I am running to make sure that South Austin is represented by a regular guy and not a downtown insider who is beholden to special interests. Transportation and traffic in South Austin is my number 1 issue and I will fight to ensure that District 5 has access to public transportation and better roads.</p>	<p>I love the character of this city, and I want to see Austin grow into a future with a strong economy built on a sustainable foundation. My parents met here and I've lived here since I was 13. As a person who grew up in Barton Hills (my parents still live there) I take special pride in the opportunity to represent District 5. Along with this desire to represent my home area as Austin rapidly grows, I bring to the table 11 years of experience as a lawyer, consultant, and business owner and as a leader in charitable, civic, and professional organizations. I appreciate Austin's past and am a stakeholder in its future. I bring the motivation and skill set needed to represent District 5 residents well.</p>	<p>I have lived in District 5 for most of my 35 years in Austin. District 5 has quite a bit of potential for contributing to the quality of life in Austin. There are especially interesting and high impact neighborhoods in District 5, including the Zilker Park Neighborhood, Onion Creek, South Lamar, Manchaca and the large part of South Central Austin. Giving this area the opportunity to better participate will be positive for Austin. I am motivated to ensure this opportunity is realized.</p>

Name	Ann Kitchen	Dan Buda	Jason Denny	Dave Floyd	Dave Senecal
What are your top three priorities for Austin?	<p>Priorities for the people of District 5 are similar to many in Austin. People are tired and frustrated by traffic congestions, diminishing affordability, threat of running out of water, imbalance in availability of services experienced by some, and desire for greater representation. Onion Creek and Williamson Creek flooding must be addressed for resident's safety and to address environmental degradation from upstream development. Adequate green space and neighborhood parks is another important issue.</p>	<p>Managing growth: It is important to grow our city in a responsible manner, taking into account our limited water supply, energy needs, lack of proper road and water infrastructure.</p> <p>Responsible government: With a \$3.5 billion city budget, we need to bring our focus back on how to effectively spend taxpayer dollars, bring back a culture of service to city hall, and provide more accountability and transparency to city council meetings and the policy-making process.</p> <p>Affordability: Property taxes, utility costs, and housing prices are all factors in the growing lack of affordability. Austin Energy and Water Utility need to be reviewed for both programs and rate structures. A better effort needs to be made to provide affordable housing units throughout the city, and provide more appropriately priced and sized housing. Implement a phased-in 20% homestead exemption.</p>	<p>"Increased Transportation for South Austin</p>		<p>Affordability, Transportation, Water.</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>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Community Safety</p>		<p>Yes</p>

Name	Ann Kitchen	Dan Buda	Jason Denny	Dave Floyd	Dave Senecal
If so, what is your plan to help alleviate some of the traffic problems? If not, why?	<p>No single fix exists. We must provide more options to build a better-connected system. With tighter public funds, we need lower cost, more immediate congestion relief while we tackle long-term issues: 1) street redesign to improve traffic flow 2) flexible hours, work days and telecommuting, 3) sidewalk and bike infrastructure, 4) maintain and improve existing roads, 5) improved access to Metro Rapid and other bus routes, 6) stronger voice for South Austin in mobility planning e.g. a South Austin transportation-planning project.</p>	<p>We need to increase the reach and frequency of our bus system, and find ways to incent people to use the system. Short term solutions include retiming of streetlights and building more efficient intersections. Our sidewalk infrastructure needs to be improved, especially around bus stops and schools. TNCs such as Uber and Lyft must be allowed to operate legally in the city. And we need to provide more night service both to reduce DWIs and give our downtown service industry workers an alternate to cars.</p>	<p>Water Conservation"</p>	<p>transportation infrastructure, long term water planning, planning and development to complement affordability</p>	<p>The transportation goal listed above centers around facilitating a reduced dependence on personal automobiles for commuting to work and for attending entertainment events. Additionally, we need access to the airport included in any mass transit plan. Current rail plan does not address these priorities. One option that was not sufficiently vetted is using the Union Pacific right of ways. These include paths to the airport and to outlying communities. This would be a much better investment than downtown to downtown tracks.</p>
What do you see as the greatest untapped opportunity for economic development in Austin?	<p>Support for local and small businesses is a key untapped opportunity for economic development. Although the city provides support through the Small Business Development Office, for example with information about affordable health coverage, the city needs to make improvements. For example, the City's PDR department need to reform to address problems with the permitting an development processes which create barriers for small businesses. The permitting process can be time consuming and costly, effectively preventing small business owners from starting a business due to the costs.</p>	<p>Realizing that our small businesses are the economic generator for our city and providing resources to help them grow and train Austinites for the jobs created.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Austin has great tools available including business incentives, a desirable workforce, and a positive living environment. We can improve by focusing these tools towards some of the intangible goals of the community such as education, entrepreneurial growth, diversity and affordability. A specific example would be to motivate an increase in the internship program at large and small work places, manage our permitting and licensing processes to motivate growth in the direction that complements Austin's culture. Foster small and new businesses Promote Austin's culture and desirable workforce focus on interns and job growth beyond the walls of the company itself.</p>

Name	Ann Kitchen	Dan Buda	Jason Denny	Dave Floyd	Dave Senecal
Do you think Austin affords enough legal rights and protections to its gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender residents?	No	No	I am against Prop 1 and Urban Rail at this time. I believe our resources would be better allocated by increasing Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) routes and expand the service areas further into South Austin.	Starting from the ground up, with improved intersections, signaling, and traffic control. Moving up to improving arteries and connecting highways. We need a commuter rail system, like Lone Star Rail. I'm not opposed to light rail, but I don't think now is the right time. We are better off with expanded Bus Rapid Transit and regular bus service. We should also push innovation with TNCs and ride share services, as well as incentivizing companies to allow telecommuting and flexible work hours.	Yes
Why or why not?	I believe the city can do more to protect the rights for LGBT residents, for example with regard to access to healthcare, reducing discrimination in housing and employment, and protecting students from bullying.	No. While Austin is a leader in providing LGBT rights and protections, we can do more. Strengthening anti-bullying policies at AISD will help protect LGBT and all other students.	I believe that ridesharing, including Carma, is a huge opportunity for economic growth that will also decrease commuter traffic on our streets.	I think we have an opportunity to become a leader in medical technology and life sciences. This is contingent on capital and business development services to work with the talent and R&D the med school will bring to the city. I am highly supportive of the creation of a medtech and life sciences incubator to go along with the opening of the medical school.	While the State is not positioned as well, Austin shares a diverse and integrated culture with good legal and community support in place. I am motivated to continue this path and hope to influence the state to catch up to Austin in this arena.
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?	Austinites have expressed concerns about the impact of rapid growth on neighborhoods, including granny flats, infill development, parking, and lack of infrastructure resulting in flooding. I share those concerns and believe implementation of Imagine Austin and revision of the Land Development Code must include neighborhood plans.	Our neighborhoods have voiced concerns over efforts to increase the allowance of infill projects, including the CodeNEXT process, the proposed South Austin Combined Neighborhood Plan, and the recent push by council to ease restrictions on the use of ADUs, or "granny flats." I share those concerns and as we plan to manage our future growth, care must be taken to protect our existing neighborhoods and keep density in appropriate places.	Yes	Yes	The transportation goal above includes mass transit and reducing the need for personal vehicles. District 5 already has issues with on-street parking availability and event traffic impeding the enjoyment of their neighborhoods. We are also interested in the rail decision as the Union Pacific option includes an active line that runs through much of District 5. Specific to the new districting system, we need to enable the contribution and participation of the District 5 community in the decision making process, which will ensure a better result for the City of Austin.

Name	Ann Kitchen	Dan Buda	Jason Denny	Dave Floyd	Dave Senecal
<p>Are the needs of downtown Austin and its outlying communities being balanced effectively?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>I believe that the city has put in appropriate protections for our LGBTQ community that minimize the effect on our residents and businesses. Protections and regulations that do not infringe upon others rights and/or place an undue burden/ increase costs to businesses will have a better chance at gaining my support. The fact that the city affords health benefits to same sex partners (as well as straight couples who live together but are not married) is a great selling point to attract top job candidates.</p>	<p>The city itself appears to provide good legal protection for LGBT citizens in city/city contractor related employment and in housing. Austin is still inside of Texas, though, which as a state does not do well on this matter. AISD, which overlays Austin, could also improve helping LGBT kids with bullying and harassment. I am, however, interested in further dialogue with the LGBT community to see where city government can help affect positive change.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Why or why not?</p>	<p>Single member districts provide the opportunity to address the longstanding imbalance of resources between downtown and outlying areas in South Austin. District 5 residents will have a representative whose job it is to listen, champion their concerns, and develop solutions.</p>	<p>For too long, city council has focused on downtown while neglecting other parts of the city. South Austin need more attention paid to our schools, our roads, our bus service, our sidewalk infrastructure, and a better way to manage the explosive growth making its way south from South Lamar Blvd.</p>	<p>I am unaware of any infill projects in District 5. I believe that these projects can be of importance in many cases and look forward to seeing how they can serve District 5 in the future.</p>	<p>We have multiple projects along Lamar (e.g., Lamar Union, 704) that are adding food, entertainment, retail, and residential options to the area. The increased amenities are great, though through poor planning regarding impact, transit, and infrastructure these new developments will most likely over-stress South Lamar. Thus, through poor oversight from the city's planning and development departments what should be positive for residents in the area will probably cause a lot of problems for neighborhood residents.</p>	<p>One of the positives of 10-1 is the distribution of the decision making process and the broadening of the representation across all neighborhoods. Throughout my campaign I have heard the same message of frustration at the lack of representation and the lack of an advocate for this district in a position to influence the council. I am motivated to work with this new structure and make the council a more representative and effective organization.</p>

Name	Ann Kitchen	Dan Buda	Jason Denny	Dave Floyd	Dave Senecal
<p>Will you vote for or against subsidies to large employers?</p>	<p>There will always be a role for the city and other groups to recruit firms to the community, as the economy changes and different industry clusters gain new markets while others lose markets over time. The goal should be recruiting those companies that work to develop a better community as a whole and fit our Austin values.</p> <p>I believe we should limit using public incentives to subsidize development without receiving extraordinary community benefits in return for the people of Austin. Improving standards for workers, including healthcare benefits, living wage, safety trainings, local hiring, should be part of requirements for companies receiving incentives. Also fostering locally owned small businesses should be a much greater part of any city incentive program.</p>	<p>Against</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>For</p>
<p>Will you require a total cost-benefit analysis before voting on any subsidies or loans to any businesses?</p>	<p>See previous.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The City has been run by downtown insiders who are beholden to special interests and ignore the outlying communities. With the new 10-1 system, South Austin will have an opportunity to elect a regular guy who will speak up for our issues and needs.</p>	<p>Downtown has seen a lot of great development, but there has been a lack of attention to outlying areas. Proposition 1 is a great example of this mentality. It is being presented as an aid to easing traffic congestion on 35, when in reality is it more of a downtown development project. I have nothing against downtown development, but it can't be focused upon to the exclusion of the rest of the city. Ask a resident of Onion Creek how they feel about the downtown boardwalk, and you are likely to be asked why they couldn't have adequate flood warning systems first.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Name	Ann Kitchen	Dan Buda	Jason Denny	Dave Floyd	Dave Senecal
What are the strengths and weaknesses of Austin's new city district system?	<p>The new district system offers the opportunity to provide a voice for all parts of the city and bring everyone together to tackle the tough issues we must face to manage growth and protect our quality of life. Some have expressed concern that the district system will encourage councilmembers to only focus on their district, to the exclusion of the rest of the city, and potentially make it more difficult for the council to move forward. I believe we should give the district system an opportunity to work, before considering any further changes to the system.</p>	<p>Strengths include better constituent response due to smaller, geographic districts. This should lead to better community and neighborhood involvement due to a closer relationship with city council members. The new system will also give parts of Austin representation where none has been before.</p> <p>Weaknesses include the potential for ward-style politics and a possibility that council members will defer too much to the "home" council member when dealing with issues within one particular district.</p>	For	For	<p>I need to comment on the above two required questions. Yes, I am willing to vote for subsidies as that is a powerful tool in maintaining Austin's economy. That said, there are motivations, metrics, and goals that have to be spelled out and monitored. If we align the goals of the community with the measured results of the subsidies, that would be a good investment. On the cost-benefit analysis, that is not just a dollars and cents effort. That includes intangibles such as education, job growth beyond the four walls of that company, and environmental enhancements that we can gain. On the new 10-1 system, it is all positive with respect to distributing the decision making process, improving the level of representation and diversity of the council, which will bring us more innovation and better ideas. On the negative side, there will be a transition as this new group learns how to work together and adapt to the broader spectrum of demands this district system will enable.</p>
Would you entertain any further changes to the system?	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

Name	Ann Kitchen	Dan Buda	Jason Denny	Dave Floyd	Dave Senecal
<p>Do you believe that affordable housing should be distributed throughout the city?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>There are no weaknesses I can find. This is a great thing for the city and especially for those who live outside of downtown.</p>	<p>First: there are a lot of caveats on voting for incentives. Large companies must bring net value to the deal, have jobs for locals, and be ready to hire local companies as service providers. Otherwise, the answer is against. As to 10-1: it's decades overdue. The previous system lived on as a way for a entrenched groups to hold onto consolidated political power. Now you are seeing a fairer system that will be more inclusive of areas outside of the city's core. In the future it would be good to see a couple of at-large seats, as this could help by CM's oriented toward overall city goals. It is unfortunate that the 8-2-1 proposal, which addressed at large council members, was merely a ruse to attempt to kill single member districts. Perhaps in the future we can see a genuine attempt to bring in at large council members. Also, at some point the city will need to consider a strong mayor system.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Do you support the energy and water conservation policies of the City of Austin utilities?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>



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
Campaign Phone	512-917-8428	512-820-1946
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Campaign Web-site	www.jimmyflannigan.com	www.peteforaustin.com
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

Name	James "Jimmy" Flannigan	Pete Phillips
What is your favorite thing to do in Austin?	.	Explore the greenbelt with my camera
Why are you running for office?	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.
What are your top three priorities for Austin?	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>
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
If so, what is your plan to help alleviate some of the traffic problems? If not, why?	<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.
What do you see as the greatest untapped opportunity for economic development in Austin?	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.
Do you think Austin affords enough legal rights and protections to its gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender residents?	No	Yes
Why or why not?	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.

Name	James "Jimmy" Flannigan	Pete Phillips
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?	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 associated traffic problems will continue to stress the inadequate infrastructure making the expansion of roads and other transportation alternatives essential to continued long term development.
Are the needs of downtown Austin and its outlying communities being balanced effectively?	No	No
Why or why not?	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.
Will you vote for or against subsidies to large employers?	Against	Against
Will you require a total cost-benefit analysis before voting on any subsidies or loans to any businesses?	Yes	Yes
What are the strengths and weaknesses of Austin's new city district system?	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.
Would you entertain any further changes to the system?	Yes	Yes
Do you believe that affordable housing should be distributed throughout the city?	Yes	Yes
Do you support the energy and water conservation policies of the City of Austin utilities?	Yes	No



2014 – Austin Mayoral and City Council “Get to Know Your Candidate” Town Hall City Council District 7 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	Ed English	Jeb Boyt	Leslie Pool	Melissa Zone	Pete Salazar	Zack Ingraham
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Occupation / Main Source of Income	Retired	Attorney / HR Consultant (spouse)	Executive Ass't, Travis County	Senior Planner	Former Employment Specialist	LegalZoom.com Sales/Marketing
Previous Occupations	Sales and Marketing	Assistant Attorney General, Staff attorney at state agencies, title examiner	Travis County 2011-current; National Wildlife Federation 2004-11; Legislative Aide, TX House 2000-03; TxDOT Planner/Mgr 1991-99; TX Emp Cmsn 1985-91; Senator Bentsen caseworker, Senator Lloyd Bentsen, Austin District Office; Citibank (now Frost), marketing assistant	Urban/Regional Planner	Clinical Case Manager	Sales/Medical Assistance
Education	BA - Political Science	BA, American Studies from Reed College, Portland, Oregon; JD with Environmental Certificate, Pace University School of Law	B.A., cum laude, Grove City College (PA) 1977; attended mid-career MPAff, LBJ School of Public Affairs, 2000	Master of Public Administration and B.A. in Urban Studies	B.A. History	Texas State Univ. through Jr. Year.
How long have you lived in Austin (Years)?	31	21 years	34	4	34	13
How long have you lived in Texas (Years)?	60	39 years, not counting summers home from college	37	4	34	13

Name	Ed English	Jeb Boyt	Leslie Pool	Melissa Zone	Pete Salazar	Zack Ingraham
If not a native Austinite, what brought you to move to Austin?	Job transfer	Job opportunities and to be near my family in Texas	married, husband was in grad school at UT	I married a 4th generation Texan	N/A	My family was from Austin and I moved here from Los Angeles after graduating high school to work and live.
Though a non-partisan race, generally, what political party do you associate with or are registered to vote as?	Republican	Democrat	Democratic	Democratic	Democratic	I do not have any party affiliation and try to focus on the issues. I do tend to vote more libertarian, but stray from party loyalty.
Previous public offices sought and/or held and when:	None		ran for AISD school board in 1992	N/A	N/A	n/a
What civic organizations do you belong to?	Volunteered with Red Cross and Big Brothers/Big Sisters	Hill Country Conservancy, Alliance for Public Transportation	LiveableCity, Treasurer and Executive Committee member Bull Creek Road Coalition, Design Principles Workgroup chair Justices of the Peace & Constables Association of Texas, member, Legislative Team variety of Democratic clubs	American Planning Association, Crestview Neighborhood Association, Crestview Planning Contact Team,	I am a former Employment Specialist for Caritas of Austin. I worked with returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan. I represented Caritas with the ECHO, a group of non-profits that addressed housing, employment and veteran's issues. I sat on all work groups and co- chaired the employment work group.	None. I have done extensive work with the APD in regards to training to prevent dog shootings. This was successful and lead to big improvements in training standards at no additional cost to the taxpayer.
Have you ever been convicted of a felony?	No	No	No	No	No	No
Have you ever had any civil judgments against you?	No	No	No	No	No	No
Do you belong to your neighborhood or homeowner's association?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

Name	Ed English	Jeb Boyt	Leslie Pool	Melissa Zone	Pete Salazar	Zack Ingraham
Have you participated in neighborhood planning?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
If yes, how have you participated?	Assisted with general information on Code Next with whatever information was most current at the time.	I participated in the Allandale neighborhood's response to the vertical mixed use initiative. I organized a coalition of urbanist groups, the Austin Urban Coalition, to follow and participate in the Imagine Austin comprehensive planning process.	stakeholder meetings, neighborhood meetings, public forums	My neighborhood planning began in the 1980s. My career allows me to work with neighborhoods on land development applications & ensuring neighborhood interest is protected in the development review process. I have employed participatory planning throughout my professional career to maximize resident's input as stakeholders. I provide pro bono work for neighborhoods. I was instrumental in assisting several neighborhood associations in North Austin stop approval of a cut-through from a high-traffic road through their neighborhood. I helped them focus on solutions, workings of city process & making sure they were doing the right things & galvanized their efforts to a workable solution. I'm instrumental in helping Crestview Neighborhood work with the city for a park that was promised in 2000. Currently, I am helping several neighborhood associations who are adjacent to a proposed PUD for two 210 feet high rises & three 60 feet tall buildings by reviewing a transportation impact analysis.	I sat on a housing work group with ECHO, evaluating the housing needs of Austin. We then gave those recommendations to city officials, spoke to state officials, and federal. I worked in these areas with various non-profits for over 5 years.	
What is your favorite book?	Ice Station Zebra	Neal Stephenson, Cryptonomicon	Girl with the Dragon Tattoo	Me Talk Pretty One Day by David Sedaris	The Case Book of Sherlock Holmes	The 4 Agreements
What is your favorite movie or television series?	A Few Good Men	It's a Wonderful Life	currently The Bridge, Halt & Catch Fire, Mad Men, Downton Abbey	Northern Exposure	The Godfather	Game Of Thrones
What is your favorite hobby(ies)?	Tinkering with computers	Cycling	reading, gardening, music, cooking, travel	cooking and hiking	Sports, Hunting, Fishing, and cards.	playing piano
What is your favorite thing to do in Austin?	The live music scene	A weekend of Saturday markets, movies, dining, and visiting friends when we never get in a car.	dinner w/friends, listening to live music (house concerts)	Hanging out at Zilker with our dogs on the weekends.	Pecan Street Festival	Go to the park with my sons.

Name	Ed English	Jeb Boyt	Leslie Pool	Melissa Zone	Pete Salazar	Zack Ingraham
Why are you running for office?	<p>I worked extensively for passage of the 10 – 1 system; a more representative form of government. Austin has been a great place to live and work for the 31 years I have resided here, all of that in District 7. The time to give something back has come. The city needs someone who fully appreciates what the 10 – 1 campaign was all about and a fresh voice disconnected from past decisions and connections to city boards, commissions or employment. I am that honest voice who will listen to any common sense, constructive suggestions on moving Austin forward and addressing the challenges we face regardless of who or where the suggestions come from. My career provided me with years of opportunities to work with contract negotiations (including government contracts; a valuable skill set given next year's 3.5 billion dollar budget) and to bring people with different points of view to the table to find common ground, reach agreements, and move forward.</p>	<p>I went to law school, in part, due to my interest in public service. I have been actively involved in public affairs through organizations and campaigns. I am looking forward to the chance to serve on the Council. This year - with the opportunity to serve on the first Council under the 10-1 system and the chance to put into place the new culture and the new practices and procedures for the Council's operations - I could not imagine sitting on the sidelines.</p>	<p>I'm running for Council to bring my progressive leadership, perspective, and extensive experience with civic and community issues to the table. I have lived in Austin since 1980, served on four city commissions, two county bond task forces and the city's 2012 bond task force. I have been actively involved in numerous issue campaigns over the years and have worked for elected officials at state and local governmental levels doing legislative, program and policy work. I have the background and level of knowledge being on the City Council requires to hit the ground running if elected.</p>	<p>I'm the only one who's got the in-depth, relevant experience with the issues that everyone's concerned about. Specifically, I've been a professional urban regional planner for 20 years. Every day I've been dealing with complex transportation issues, land development and zoning issues, water and environmental issues. And it's always been my job to look out for neighborhoods and taxpayers.</p> <p>I'm the only candidate in this race who's got real solutions. For example, I repeatedly say growth should pay for growth. Right now in Austin our taxes keep going up to pay for growth, but the developers who profit from growth get all sorts of exemptions and waivers. That's out of balance and we need to fix that as part of our affordability problem. Also, protecting neighborhoods and preserving neighborhood plans are central themes of my campaign.</p>	<p>I have been working on housing, employment, and veterans issues for almost a decade. In that time the city has done little to create policies that would address these issues. They depended on non-profits, and other groups to create Band-Aids instead of them creating solutions. We are losing are small businesses, native Austinites are leaving because they can't afford to live here anymore. We must grow responsibly and make sure Austin's soul stays strong fore the future.</p>	<p>In 2013 I was forced into action to try and stop dogs from being unnecessarily shot by law enforcement. I worked with the APD Continuing Education Department and several officers there including Art Acevedo and Lt. Curtis Krause. I spoke at City Hall as well as several other public forums on behalf of dogs and how this could serve the best interests of law enforcement and the community. Ultimately they accepted my recommendations. These events opened my eyes to how much one individual could accomplish if motivated and willing to collaborate and find compromise in a given situation. This positive experience mixed with the opportunities the 10-1 ruling provides made me feel I could impact other important issues related to affordability, transparent government, transportation, and police accountability. If elected I plan on restoring the peoples faith in the Austin City Council while finding logical and fiscally responsible ways of solving problems.</p>

Name	Ed English	Jeb Boyd	Leslie Pool	Melissa Zone	Pete Salazar	Zack Ingraham
What are your top three priorities for Austin?	Addressing - Traffic/congestion, affordability (including property taxes), fiscal responsibility on the part of the City of Austin	Addressing affordability and transportation and ensuring that the new Council fulfills on the promise of greater accountability under the 10-1 system.	affordability, tax reform, transportation, water	Deal with complex transportation issues, deal with complex affordability issues and establish a cost-effective city government. The key here is a mindset shift; we have to do things differently. Who should be paying for growth? We're so dependent on bonds and we wouldn't have to be if we had growth paying for growth. Our taxes are paying for road improvements that the developer should be mitigating. Expand the density bonus ordinance and enforce it, the city keeps giving waivers. Amend the ordinance for an emphasis on affordable middle class housing to be included in developments. My fiscal priorities and principles are to ensure cost-effective delivery of essential services. Public safety, utilities, transportation and the environment are my priorities. I would look for opportunities to identify redundancies and unnecessary expenditures in support services, especially those budgeted in the General Fund.	Responsible Growth Greater Access To Public Transportation Greater Support For Small Businesses	Affordability, Fiscal responsibility, and police accountability. I want to fix the city code and bring down housing costs. I want to look at Austin Energy as a business and return savings to the citizens. I want to restore faith and discourse into the council and make financial records public. I want to demilitarize the Austin Police and ban the use of military gear in Austin.
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. I have worked on transportation issues for years with the Alliance for Public Transportation and during the 2010 and 2012 bond campaigns.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Name	Ed English	Jeb Boyd	Leslie Pool	Melissa Zone	Pete Salazar	Zack Ingraham
<p>If so, what is your plan to help alleviate some of the traffic problems? If not, why?</p>	<p>All possible remedies need to be in the toolkit for City Council members to consider. That includes the use of and additional emphasis on road improvements, better bus service, cost effective rail lines (I was the first in my District 7 race to go on record as opposing the rail proposal that will go before the voters in November), ride sharing, bike lanes, improved walkability, expanded taxi service and more. Although not forms of public transportation per se, we as a city need to encourage staggered work hours, more work from home opportunities, geographically dispersed employment opportunities, etc.</p>	<p>I support the Proposition 1 urban rail bond on this November's ballot. I am in favor of the Reconnect Austin vision for rebuilding I-35 and restoring connections between Downtown and East Austin, and the overall improvements to I-35. I support the plans for managed lanes on South Mopac and 183. I support the extension of the Burnet and Lamar rapid bus routes to Round Rock and Pflugerville and the other improvements described in the North Corridor Plan for Project Connect. I support the development of other corridor plans under project connect. I support Imagine Austin's vision of a compact and connected city where activity centers are linked by transportation corridors. I support the extension of Austin's bikeways, including more extensive use of protected bike lanes. I support the plan for the Lone Star Rail from Georgetown to San Antonio, and I will make securing funding for it one of my top priorities on Council. I will work to develop a plan for improving 360 and a plan for the Oak Hill Y that will not contribute to greater flooding downstream along Williamson Creek.</p>	<p>I support multi-modal transit options in our urban region: rail, roads, buses, bike and pedestrian. We must provide properly paved and maintained sidewalks and bus stop structures that provide shelter & shade that connect to neighborhoods, and pedestrian-friendly streetscapes. Crestview Station, for example, needs parking for the Red Line.</p>	<p>The goal here is to reduce congestion, and there are tools we're not using that can help taxpayers. Implement Transportation Demand Management tools. The City needs to partner with other agencies and businesses to sell bus passes at work, figure out if employees can telecommute, and work with companies to create staggered work hours. I would like to see a healthy mix of mobility options for everyone with convenient and inexpensive public transportation, including urban rail and reliable bus service with average headways of no more than 15 minutes. I would like to see interconnected and well maintained bicycle and pedestrian facilities designed to limit conflicts with automobile traffic.</p>	<p>I think if we increase connectivity in Austin, which means we need to increase our bus service to all areas of Austin, we need to expand the time of service to at least 3:30AM. We need to open up the toll roads during peak hours of traffic, so people can use them for free.</p>	<p>If elected I would support a new ordinance for road improvements. \$400 Million is included in the prop 1 bond which I do not support. I do think that was a mistake by the current council to connect those two things, rail and roads, in one bond. I would support a separate bond after additional data and consulting to find the appropriate areas to focus the funds as well as the appropriate amount to spend.</p>

Name	Ed English	Jeb Boyt	Leslie Pool	Melissa Zone	Pete Salazar	Zack Ingraham
What do you see as the greatest untapped opportunity for economic development in Austin?	I offer an answer with qualifications. I do believe that recruiting companies to Austin has its place, provided that the companies recruited and the advantages they may bring to the table will fill current or anticipated unmet needs. As an example, I would like to see companies come to Austin that provide employment opportunities for Austinites, in areas of the city that are currently short on employment opportunities, and target most of those employment opportunities toward those with more modest educational levels (jobs where the typical income level would be in the \$30,000 to \$60,000 range). These might include green jobs, clean manufacturing, distribution centers and the like. As a city we have a real opportunity to diversify the local economy beyond current levels.	Improving Austin's permitting and code compliance system so that it is efficient, consistent, reliable, and predictable. Businesses spend far too much time and money dealing with City requirements that can be opaque and arbitrarily applied.	Local small businesses are a major factor in shaping the character around town. We should celebrate and support them. The permitting process is extremely difficult and time-consuming, and needs reformed. Additionally, I support the City's economic development staff shifting focus away from recruiting major commercial businesses to Austin and instead work to support and expand our local and small business economy.	The city devotes an inordinate amount of economic development funding to attracting large corporations from out-of-state. I would work to shift the emphasis to development and expansion of locally owned businesses and startup ventures in Austin. Also, the city's permitting processes need to be streamlined and more user friendly in order to reduce the time and money that small businesses have to expend to satisfy conditions of permits. I favor shifting the city's priorities for the use of tax incentives to benefit small, locally owned businesses.	I think we need to create independent business corridors, that support local businesses in all areas Austin. This will promote local businesses in our many festivals and concerts. This will grow Austin's culture in other states, and countries.	I think the formation of local businesses is the greatest untapped resource. If elected I will support businesses by rewriting the city code, working with zoning issues that price businesses out of established areas, lower taxes, and rework code compliance so that we have more WholeFoods or Amy's Ice Cream's starting and thriving here in Austin. We must support and prop up our local businesses.
Do you think Austin affords enough legal rights and protections to its gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender residents?	No	I am undecided on this.	No	No	No	Yes
Why or why not?	I have heard from many that the legal rights and protections do not go far enough. I would ask those most affected by these issues for their input on how and what changes and improvements should be made. In general and throughout my career and personal life I have found it best to seek the council of those closest to any issue for their advice.	I support an ongoing review of the benefits and rights granted by the City to its LGBTQ employees to ensure that the City is meeting our standards of equality and to ensure that we are doing as well, if not better, than our peer cities throughout North America. We should also review whether LGBTQ residents are receiving protections in employment and housing where City funding is involved.	The City has made strides in ensuring equality for its LGBTQ employees but more can be done. I believe all policy issues should be considered through the lens of the LGBTQ community, for example the recent Parental Leave paid time off program applying to same-sex parents. I would propose a new City Commission on LGBTQ issues that would address community-wide issues as well as issues specific to our employees.	The city has done an excellent job compared to many other cities, especially in Texas. The Human Rights Commission's Municipal Equality Index is a great barometer of how we are doing. Increase recruitment of LGBTQ employees, and on boards and commissions. I would like to see the city do a better job at anti-bullying educational programs in our schools and to monitor closely the Hate Crimes Task Force. Diversity across all areas ensures a healthy city.	I think we are doing well, but we can do better in making sure people have the same rights as all Texans.	I think Austin is a forward thinking city and tries to treat people equally. If elected I would want my staff to reflect that diversity as well.

Name	Ed English	Jeb Boyt	Leslie Pool	Melissa Zone	Pete Salazar	Zack Ingraham
<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>My sincere apologies on failing to provide an in-depth answer to this question, but time constraints make that difficult. I wanted to get this questionnaire submitted without any further delay.</p> <p>In short, District 7 needs parks, transportation hubs and some high density housing WHERE appropriate.</p>		<p>District 7 does not have "infill" specifically, but the Burnet Road Corridor Plan is focused on the types and mix of commercial entities along Burnet and Anderson Lanes. Compatibility standards are key here as is respecting and including the time neighborhoods have spent developing Neighborhood Plans & Future Land Use Maps.</p>	<p>Although I didn't agree with the large subsidies the city gave the developers of The Domain, I do believe new development should be concentrated in that area. I would like to see an emphasis on a mix of employment centers. That will then support a mix of housing and retail.</p>	<p>Like I stated before we need to create small business corridors protecting small businesses in district 7. Without these corridors we will eventually lose small businesses due to massive growth.</p>	<p>The Bull Creek land that is up for sale would be a vital piece of land to use for development of either affordable housing, park space, hike and bike trails, a supermarket or apartment communities. Unfortunately the current city council budgeted horribly for this and there are no funds available with which to purchase it. This is ultimately a huge failure as it will either be a lost opportunity or it will be purchased and put future Austinites in debt.</p>
<p>Are the needs of downtown Austin and its outlying communities being balanced effectively?</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Why or why not?</p>	<p>My sincere apologies on failing to provide an answer to this question, but time constraints make that difficult. I wanted to get this questionnaire submitted without any further delay.</p>	<p>Regardless of the merits, the perception in the outlying neighborhoods is that the balance is tilted toward Downtown. In part, this is due a lack of transparency on how the revenues generated from Downtown, particularly from large events, benefit the City as a whole. In general, the City needs to be more transparent about how the hotel/motel and alcoholic beverage taxes from Downtown flow into the City budget.</p>	<p>The city can do better. Outlying areas feel they are neglected - they want more parks, pools and public safety in their neighborhoods. Infrastructure, roads, sidewalks, water lines for example, need upgrades and maintenance. The city budget should reflect a better balance of spending throughout Austin.</p>	<p>The city has placed an unfair emphasis on downtown priorities. One can argue that downtown serves everyone, and I agree to some extent. However, the burden of paying for infrastructure improvements for downtown developers must not fall on individual citizens alone. Skyrocketing property taxes are forcing residents to move to the suburbs, contributing to urban sprawl.</p>	<p>The lack of access to public transportation in all areas of the city hinders many Austinites to work shop and live where they want to. They limited to the times in which they can enjoy our city.</p>	<p>The needs of down town tended to weigh heavier on the minds of the city council. I would imagine that evens out under the new 10-1 city council.</p>

Name	Ed English	Jeb Boyt	Leslie Pool	Melissa Zone	Pete Salazar	Zack Ingraham
Will you vote for or against subsidies to large employers?	Against	In considering whether to support any incentive deal, I would want to verify that the benefits were worth the requested subsidies. I would work to verify that the factors of concern were minimized and offset to the greatest extent practicable (i.e. adding performance measures regarding ensuring that a certain percentage of the existing and new employees reside in Austin and Travis County). In addition, I would prefer to see incentives used to attract businesses to the activity centers described in the Imagine Austin comprehensive plan and that the businesses add to the diversity of Austin's overall economy. As part of any incentive agreement, we should also require that companies receiving incentives comply with the City's goals for domestic partner benefits, MBE and WBEs, etc.	Against	Against	Against	Against
Will you require a total cost-benefit analysis before voting on any subsidies or loans to any businesses?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Name	Ed English	Jeb Boyt	Leslie Pool	Melissa Zone	Pete Salazar	Zack Ingraham
<p>What are the strengths and weaknesses of Austin's new city district system?</p>	<p>This is a subject near and dear to me given my intense involvement with getting the 10 - 1 system on the ballot, passed and a fair set of district maps drawn. I don't know that I can really do justice to the question in just 1000 characters. Please ask me this question at the Town Hall event -- I'd love to share my experiences with this process.</p> <p>I'll use some of the space available to answer this question to comment on the question below this one. I would entertain further changes to the system after having given the current system time to operate and then see what refinements would be appropriate.</p>	<p>The strengths are the much needed accountability that it will provide. The Council members will be responsive to the residents and businesses of the district. The districts will also give the people of the districts a more prominent voice at City Hall and in public affairs. The weaknesses of the system include the risk of ward politics in which Council members are concerned largely only with matters in their own districts and/or that the Council members are able to exercise extensive control over decisions affecting their district. I am also concerned about the churn built into the system. With the existing term limits, it is likely that half of the new Council will be gone in six years, after a two-year term and a four-year term. I am concerned that this would be a loss of knowledge for the City and that it might strengthen the position of City staff who may seek to simply outlast Council members that will be gone after only a few years.</p>	<p>Strengths include a real grassroots connection to neighborhoods and businesses in the proscribed areas. Council members will be more accountable to the voters. Weaknesses include district lines that split cohesive neighborhoods and voting precincts (Rosedale is a prime example – the neighborhood is split between 7 & 10, and pct 236 is cut in the middle at 45th Street). I would try to put split neighborhoods back together when the lines are redrawn during the 2020 census. Neither a plus nor a minus, but a reality: Council members will have to weigh benefits to their specific district with benefits to the City in its entirety when making decisions. Some of these decisions will be distinctly challenging; others, not so much.</p>	<p>The strength of the 10-1 system will bring about more transparent and accountable city operations to its citizens. The weaknesses is that many of the 10-1 members are not experienced in city government and unintended consequences could happen from making poor policy decisions based on lack of knowledge of city government.</p>	<p>I believe its strength is that it will provide representation in all 10 districts, but we must look beyond our districts as well to address the problems of Austin as a whole.</p>	<p>The strengths are there will be more ideas and better representation for the city as a whole. The weaknesses are the potential for too much disagreement and too many district specific concerns that prevent city wide collaboration. Ultimately, this is why someone with experience in collaboration and compromise is key.</p>

Name	Ed English	Jeb Boyd	Leslie Pool	Melissa Zone	Pete Salazar	Zack Ingraham
Would you entertain any further changes to the system?	No	Yes. There is a great deal of interest in proposing that Austin move to a Strong Mayor system. There is also interest in presenting again the proposal to have the City Attorney report to the Council instead of the City Manager. I think that we should have a discussion about how the redistricting process worked. There was little discussion of the mechanics of redistricting prior to the vote in 2012. In particular, I'd like to discuss whether we really need to have the Commission to Select the Commission that cost a great deal of time and money. The voters did also approve the 8-2-1 proposal, and I would be in favor of a discussion of whether we should again look at creating two at-large districts or - as I would prefer - two super-districts, each comprised of five existing Council districts (combining Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 in one super-district would allow it serve as a Hispanic-opportunity district).	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Do you believe that affordable housing should be distributed throughout the city?	Yes	Yes, but I also recognize that property values are not equally distributed throughout the city.	Yes	Yes	No	No
Do you support the energy and water conservation policies of the City of Austin utilities?	Yes	Yes, and I support the recommendations of the recent Water Policy Management Task Force.	Yes	Yes	Yes	No



2014 – Austin Mayoral and City Council “Get to Know Your Candidate” Town Hall City Council District 8 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	Becky Bray	Darrell Pierce
Campaign Phone	512-762-5406	512-547-4198
Campaign E-mail	becky@brayfor8.com	district8@darrellpierce.com
Campaign Web-site	www.brayfor8.com	www.darrellpierce.com
Occupation / Main Source of Income	Transportation Engineering/Planning	Principal, SNAP Management Group, Inc.
Previous Occupations	Transportation Engineering/Planning	Manager of Corporate Procurement, IBM; Director, Executive Business Administration, General Services Commission; Commodity Manager, Motorola.
Education	Texas A&M - MS and BS Science (Civil Engineering)	Crockett High School, Bachelor’s Degree in Business from St. Edward’s University, Graduate, Austin Police Academy, Graduate of Leadership Austin
How long have you lived in Austin (Years)?	40	34
How long have you lived in Texas (Years)?	45	36
If not a native Austinite, what brought you to move to Austin?	Native - schools out of Austin	My father retired to the Bergstrom Air Force Base when I was 16.
Though a non-partisan race, generally, what political party do you associate with or are registered to vote as?	Republican	Democratic
Previous public offices sought and/or held and when:	None	Ran unsuccessfully in 2006, Austin City Council, Place 6
What civic organizations do you belong to?	Settlement Club of Austin Junior League of Austin Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Texas Emancipet Real Estate Council of Austin (civic and professional)	Planning Commission, ISD Boundary Task Force, Chamber of Commerce Board, Transit Working Group, Austin Public Education Foundation
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?	Yes	Yes
Have you participated in neighborhood planning?	Yes	Yes

Name	Becky Bray	Darrell Pierce
If yes, how have you participated?	<p>I have attended meetings, facilitated and participated in the process as both a resident, professional engineer and land planner.</p> <p>I am an American Institute of Certified Planner - AICP (land and transportation planning), Professional Engineer (PE) and Professional Traffic Operations Engineer (PTOE). So for both my job and as a resident I have had a variety of opportunities to participate.</p>	<p>I organized and implemented a remodel of our Western Oaks neighborhood entry way. I was a member of the Western Oaks HOA Board and sat on various planning subcommittees for the Western Oaks neighborhood. In addition I served on Planning Commission and led Open Space clean-ups.</p>
What is your favorite book?	Historical based -	Good to Great, Jim Collins
What is your favorite movie or television series?	GRIMM, Shark Tank, Big Bang Theory	The Cosby Show
What is your favorite hobby(ies)?	Volunteering, running, biking, being outside, anything with animals	Gardening, Cooking
What is your favorite thing to do in Austin?	Running, biking in my neighborhood, spending time with family and friends	Jazz Clubs, Canoeing, Golfing
Why are you running for office?	<p>I have wanted to run for quite some time. With the implementation of the new 10 – 1 system, the southwest part of Austin will finally have a seat at the table. For too long there has not been a responsible and common sense voice at the table. We are the 11th largest City with some significant needs. Our current council system has failed to truly address the community's transportation, water, development, city services, educational and affordability issues</p>	<p>I am a 34-year resident of Austin who graduated from Crockett High School and St. Edward's University. I am the father of three wonderful daughters and the husband of an extraordinary wife who is a partner with me in all our endeavors. I am actively involved in my neighborhood, as well as my church, Greater Mount Zion. As the owner of a consulting firm, I am focused on process improvement and performance management for numerous government agencies and businesses. My combined public and private experience at the General Services Commission and companies such as Motorola and IBM exceeds that of any other District 8 candidate. My civic commitment to Austin includes serving on public commissions dealing with education, planning, chamber of commerce, and transportation. I will be a passionate, dedicated and accessible council member.</p>
What are your top three priorities for Austin?	<p>Transportation - Continue moving forward with roadway construction. We need improved transit options (park and ride, express bus, bus rapid transit, traditional service). We need to protect our local roadway networks while allowing for connectivity and pedestrian/bicycle access. Water - Large problem requiring the development of a true long term solution and Austin should work with neighboring communities. We should be looking at underground water storage, increasing water reuse opportunities, water conservation measures, or even rain water collection. City services - A very broad category, but in general the way the city is doing business impacts all of us. The City's development review/permitting systems needs to be revisited. The system has become very cumbersome and as such it adds to the price of doing business in Austin. When setting the budget, Austin needs to take care of the residents before taking on pet projects. The City needs to work for the citizens and not against</p>	<p>District 8's three most critical issues are transportation, community services, and protection of our environment. I would address each by securing adequate funding to support a regional, comprehensive transportation study for all of South Austin, ensuring lights on city streets are synchronized to yield optimal traffic flow, maximize the efficient delivery public safety services, and find funding to protect our open spaces, aquifer, and parks.</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?	Yes	Yes

Name	Becky Bray	Darrell Pierce
If so, what is your plan to help alleviate some of the traffic problems? If not, why?	Traffic is a huge problem for our City and if not addressed could jeopardize our economic vitality. There are many things we as a city need to do. We must continue to move forward with the planned transportation projects – SH 45 SW, S MoPac, Y at Oakhill. The City must work with TxDOT, CTRMA and others and learn to do more with less. This includes the development of more innovative intersections which typically increase capacity at a much lower cost. We must work with Capital Metro and surrounding communities and develop a truly regional transit vision and plan. This plan must address the needs of the residents in each of the communities and include expanded transit services. The City also needs to develop areas where residents can live, work and play and lessen their dependence on the private automobile or at least lessen the commute patterns. The City also needs to create collaborative partnerships that encourage telecommuting and alternative work schedules.	Dante's Inferno
What do you see as the greatest untapped opportunity for economic development in Austin?	I believe there are two untapped economic development opportunities in Austin. The first is the creative sector. I have many friends in this area and I think that there are not enough opportunities for them. I see them struggling to find an art venue, health care, affordable housing, or a work space. I also fully understand the lack of late night transportation options for many of the individuals working in this sector. The second opportunity includes the trade sectors. I think the City, ACC and AISD need to work collaboratively in the creation of educational opportunities that address the wants and needs of those students who may not want to continue on to a traditional four year college, but may want to learn a trade skill and work immediately.	It is important for the City to provide economic development incentives for medium to large employers that create employment and education for semi-skilled and non-technical workers. Some type of revolving micro lending fund should be created for emerging growing local companies with a stable track record. In response the question "Will you vote for or against subsidies to large employers?": It is important for the City to provide economic development incentives for medium to large employers that create employment and education for semi-skilled and non-technical workers. Some type of revolving micro lending fund should be created for emerging growing local companies with a stable track record. These efforts should be very targeted.
Do you think Austin affords enough legal rights and protections to its gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender residents? Why or why not?	No I know that the GLBT community is very active within the Austin community and I think Austin is making progress toward providing protections. I would like to see more interaction and communication between these communities and the various city departments and the city in general. I personally do not know the detailed issues or concerns that the GLBT community face and would welcome the opportunity to learn and understand.	Yes Austin is the leader in Texas for support of LGBT rights. While Austin is a leader in LGBT equality, there are always opportunities to do more towards making sure everyone's rights are protected.
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?	The most critical project for District 8 would be the redevelopment of the Y at Oakhill. Currently leases are not being renewed and/or commercial redevelopment projects are being halted. This is primarily due to the land owners and developers not knowing what is going to happen with the intersection of HWY 71 and US 290. The City needs to work with CTRMA and TxDOT and move the interchange project forward. The project is at least 6 years away, but once the plans are decided upon the revitalization can begin. As a resident in this area, I would like to see commercial, retail and office space be developed along with the expansion of ACC. This would become a true activity center for our part of town. While I recognize some residents do not want the added traffic or the influx of people, the increase can be mitigated through local access control.	District 8 needs more schools and a recreation center. A plus for infill development is that it will create more opportunities for our District to become a better place to live, learn, work, and play. A potential minus for infill development is always going to be the environmental concerns. District 8 is located within the environmentally sensitive Edward's Aquifer Recharge Zone. Therefore, any and all development in District 8 must meet environmentally smart and responsible standards.
Are the needs of downtown Austin and its outlying communities being balanced effectively?	No	No

Name	Becky Bray	Darrell Pierce
Why or why not?	Austin has become to downtown-centric. The far too long the City has been directing residential and commercial development as well as community resources into downtown while not paying attention to other areas. This only leads to more residents working downtown, increasing the demands being placed on our roadway system and generally making it harder to do anything in the central business district. This has all come at the detriment to the outlying communities. I believe many of the needs of the outlying communities - roadways, infrastructure improvement, sidewalks, parks and open spaces, and community areas (library, community centers) – have largely been ignored because the majority of our City’s resources are directed to downtown. The current council structure allows a small vocal minority to redirect resources away from the outlying communities	For years, Austin has focused the majority of their efforts to developing and maintaining Central Austin. This has caused a sever disparity in the quality of infrastructure, public transportation, and entertainment options for all other suburban parts of the city.
Will you vote for or against subsidies to large employers?	For	For
Will you require a total cost-benefit analysis before voting on any subsidies or loans to any businesses?	Yes	Yes
What are the strengths and weaknesses of Austin's new city district system?	The strengths of our new system far outweigh the weaknesses. Under this new system we will have the rare opportunity to hit the reset button on our city governance system. This system will allow so many more people the opportunity to have their needs and concerns heard. Instead of all council members being elected from the central area, we will have council members from all parts of the City which will expand the conversations. I am hopeful that all new council members take the time to get to know the different areas of the City and the various issues facing them. The biggest weakness will be avoiding ward politics, but I believe by working together, communicating and understanding each other we can all work together for betterment of the City of Austin as a whole.	<p>The strengths present a great opportunity to reset our local government and create some real opportunities for change and providing a voice for all Austin communities. The potential weakness is for the new council to not create shared strategic principles that may result into a level of district gridlock that minimizes moving issues forward.</p> <p>In response to the question "Would you entertain any further changes to the system?": We need to explore how we can in the most cost efficiency way establish offices in each district. An inventory should be done to determine the vacancy of local government facilities in each district.</p>
Would you entertain any further changes to the system?	Yes	Yes
Do you believe that affordable housing should be distributed throughout the city?	Yes	Yes
Do you support the energy and water conservation policies of the City of Austin utilities?	Yes	Yes



LOG CABIN
REPUBLICANS
OF AUSTIN

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2014 – Austin Mayoral and City Council “Get to Know Your Candidate” Town Hall City Council District 9 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	Erin McGann	Kathie Tovo
Campaign Phone	512-470-9156	512-632-8796
Campaign E-mail	erin4district9@gmail.com	info@kathieforaustin.com
Campaign Web-site	erincitycouncil.com	www.kathieforaustin.com
Occupation / Main Source of Income	Program Supervisor at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice	Council Member
Previous Occupations	I have worked at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for 7 years, first as a Parole Officer for special needs offenders, later as a Human Service Specialist linking clients with HIV with the local ASO, then working as a contract monitor for \$25 million in contracts for the mental health program supported by TDCJ called TCOOMMI. Currently I run a reentry program for offenders coming out of prison. Prior to working for TDCJ, I worked for mutual fund companies facilitating multi million dollar trades and reviewing trades for fraud.	director of programs and communications; assistant professor; lecturer; freelance writer
Education	BS in Justice and Policy Studies from Guilford College, MS in Criminal Justice from Texas State	Ph.D. UT Austin; MA, UT Austin; B.A., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
How long have you lived in Austin (Years)?	12	23
How long have you lived in Texas (Years)?	12	23
If not a native Austinite, what brought you to move to Austin?	My husband and I were both laid off in the tech crash in the early 2000's. He decided to go to grad school at UT for Architecture, I came along. He dropped out of UT, but we stayed in Austin because we loved it here.	graduate studies at The University of Texas at Austin
Though a non-partisan race, generally, what political party do you associate with or are registered to vote as?	Unaffiliated	Democratic
Previous public offices sought and/or held and when:	None	Austin City Council Member Place 3
What civic organizations do you belong to?	ECHO- Ending Community Homelessness Coalition Austin /Travis County Reentry Roundtable Texas Interoffice Coalition for the Homeless I also served on the Citizens Review Panel through the Office of the Police Monitor until March,2014	St. John's United Methodist Church; Families with Children from China; UT Ex-Students Association; Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority Alum.; Settlement Home Advisory Board; Campfire USA Program Advisory Board; Adoption Knowledge Affiliates; Heritage Neighborhood Association; South Austin Democrats, Black Austin Democrats, Austin Environmental Democrats, Capital Area Progressive Democrats, Stonewall Democrats, and Central Austin Democrats.
Have you ever been convicted of a felony?	No	No

Name	Erin McGann	Kathie Tovo
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	Yes
If yes, how have you participated?	N/A	I served on the Planning Commission and the Neighborhood Planning subcommittee, I have been a member of the Bouldin Creek Neighborhood Planning Team, and I have had the opportunity to review neighborhood plans as a Council Member.
What is your favorite book?	This is a trick question! I love to read-- So The Art of Racing in the Rain; One Good Dog; The Snow Child; Pecked to Death by Ducks; In Cold Blood....	I'm an avid reader and have no absolute, #1 favorite; however, the Bread Givers is a book that has remained a favorite of mine through the years.
What is your favorite movie or television series?	The Princess Bride and Orange is the New Black	West Wing
What is your favorite hobby(ies)?	I run marathons and sew not at the same time)	reading; learning about antiques
What is your favorite thing to do in Austin?	Running with Gilbert's Gazelles, sewing at Stitch Lab and Going to the movies at the Alamo Drafthouse	Spend time with my husband and daughters, especially at the Downtown Farmers Market.
Why are you running for office?	<p>I am running for City Council because we have a distinct lack of accountability in City Council.</p> <p>The City of Austin can improve its ability to work with the citizens, its affordability and livability, and its commitment to the re-use of resources and green energy. The current council is not responsive to the citizens of Austin and the city departments have followed suit. We can be better at serving and listening to the citizens of Austin, and I will make sure they are heard.</p> <p>We have begun a new era in politics in Austin; ten newly formed districts will get a new representative on City Council, and district 9 deserves a choice to have new representation as well.</p>	It has been a privilege to serve on the Austin City Council. I am proud of what I have accomplished in my first term on Council and look forward to continuing my work on affordability, housing, environmental sustainability, and preserving the quality of life in this great city.
What are your top three priorities for Austin?	<p>Reduce frivolous spending</p> <p>Increase customer service and accountability through out the City departments and government</p> <p>Create a reliable cost effective transportation system</p>	<p>Affordability. I have led the Council in initiatives aimed at reforming our broken property tax system, and introduced a successful resolution to create the first-ever city homestead exemption. I have voted against unnecessary public tax subsidies -- supporting only those that resulted in strong benefits for Austin, and I helped strengthen the vetting process for economic incentives.</p> <p>Education. We need to keep our central city neighborhood schools open, to adopt policies and practices that keep families with children in our central city, and to leverage city and school district resources in effective and efficient ways.</p> <p>Putting people first. When I ran in 2011, I promised to listen to everyday Austinites, not just the big developers and lobbyists. I have taken strong stances to protect the environment, to develop programs for youths and seniors, and to look out for the interests of Austin residents and businesses.</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?	Yes	Yes

Name	Erin McGann	Kathie Tovo
If so, what is your plan to help alleviate some of the traffic problems? If not, why?	I plan to create a web of park and rides around the city at all the major roadways. I will then have busses that run regularly from the park and rides to other areas of the city. The busses will not all be regular sized busses, but based on the demand of the area, some places would get smaller busses to accommodate needs. I will also increase the time of bus routes, ultimately striving for a 24 hour bus system. The transportation must be convenient and inexpensive to encourage people to ride.	There isn't one magic cure to Austin's traffic problems. We must invest in roadway improvements as well as in alternative forms of transportation that enable Austinites to move around without needing a car. I voted in favor of Project Connect, which sets out a long-term vision of transit. I also place a high priority on building sidewalks and bicycle infrastructure and investments in Safe Routes to School. The Families and Children Task Force Report provides a blueprint for making our neighborhoods safer, including traffic calming, family-friendly enhancements, and education programs aimed at creating a more walkable community.
What do you see as the greatest untapped opportunity for economic development in Austin?	Local business. Our city has spent millions of dollars encouraging large businesses to move to Austin and very little encouraging local business. We need to support and encourage local business.	As Austin is now the fastest-growing city in the nation, I do not support using incentives to attract out-of-town corporations unless the proposal can demonstrate extraordinary benefits for Austinites. While it is important to continue to grow and diversity our local economy, we must also recognize that we have burgeoning local businesses that can also benefit from our economic development efforts. I support prioritizing our economic development dollars to help local businesses grow and investing in local talent through workforce development initiatives.
Do you think Austin affords enough legal rights and protections to its gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender residents?	No	No
Why or why not?	If we still have to ask this question the answer can only be no	I am proud that the City of Austin holds a 100 score on the HRC's Municipal Equality Index. Part of the reason we have such a high score is that the City of Austin is an LGBTQ-friendly employer. However, there is always room for improvement; for example, it's my understanding that the City's health care benefits may not now cover transgender transition procedures. I will continue to work with LGBTQ leaders, like Equality Texas, to ensure that all employees are treated equal under the city's policies and practices. In May of this year, the City Council directed the City Manager to evaluate its policies, as measured by the HRC index, and recommend to council changes to enhance our equality practices.
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?	The TXDOT offices on 45th street will becoming available for development soon, and this area could become a great development of varied cost housing, protected elder housing and low income housing. The pluses are obviously creating more affordable housing in Austin. The negatives are the infrastructure in the area is already stressed and an increase in drivers wouldn't improve the situation. Additionally we have sections of Airport Blvd that could use some serious TLC. The issue here is attracting developers to work to improve the area, and still keep the rents low enough for the established businesses	Triangle, a mixed use development with more than 500 residential units. The development includes open space and a good mix of businesses that serve the needs of residents and others; I believe the rental prices tend to be relatively high-priced. Capitol Studios, a Downtown affordable community developed by Foundation Communities; this project will provide the first affordable community constructed Downtown in 45 years. This development serves a critical need for affordable housing near an area of town with a high concentration of service industry jobs; however, the 100% efficiencies can only serve single adults.
Are the needs of downtown Austin and its outlying communities being balanced effectively?	No	Yes
Why or why not?	In the past we have not. The council has all lived in central Austin and all development and improvements have been central based. The new 10-1 council will increase the equity for all the citizens of Austin	The City has made good strides in recent years in tracking infrastructure and capital investments in different areas of Austin. Although recent investments have been distributed well, certain areas of the city still suffer from years of neglect and need significant resources and additional investment.
Will you vote for or against subsidies to large employers?	Against	Against

Name	Erin McGann	Kathie Tovo
Will you require a total cost-benefit analysis before voting on any subsidies or loans to any businesses?	Yes	Yes
What are the strengths and weaknesses of Austin's new city district system?	The strength is that all Austin will be represented; it should encourage involvement in the government process and create a robust voting environment. The weakness comes in if any member of the council neglects to realize many of the issues coming before council will affect the entire city and only votes for the benefit of his or her district	District representation will enable Council Members to focus more intently on a limited area and to better learn that area's needs, resources, challenges, and opportunities. The new system will still require Council Members to work together for the good of the whole city, however, and that will require much collaboration and productive dialogue.
Would you entertain any further changes to the system?	Yes	Yes
Do you believe that affordable housing should be distributed throughout the city?	Yes	Yes
Do you support the energy and water conservation policies of the City of Austin utilities?	Yes	Yes



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
Campaign Phone	512-537-4928	512-537-5473	512-931-4041	512-826-1797
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Campaign Web-site	www.billforaustin10.com	www.mandydealey.com/	www.margieforaustin.com	www.mattlamon.com
Occupation / Main Source of Income	Director of Coastal Engineering, LJA Engineering, Inc.	Investor	The Art of Image & Wardrobing	Chief of Staff, Texas House of Reps
Previous Occupations	Independent engineering consultant; TGLO coastal division director; small business owner	N/A	group tour coordinator; financial planning; sales rep	Management Consultant
Education	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
How long have you lived in Austin (Years)?	19	32	27	20
How long have you lived in Texas (Years)?	41	64	54	30
If not a native Austinite, what brought you to move to Austin?	a job in the best city in Texas	The wrong man	a job opportunity	Parents
Though a non-partisan race, generally, what political party do you associate with or are registered to vote as?	Republican	Democratic	vote both sides of the aisle	Republican
Previous public offices sought and/or held and when:	None	Ran for Austin City Council in 2005, and ran in 2000 Democratic Primary for House District 48.	none	N/A

Name	Bill Worsham	Mandy Dealey	Margie Burciaga	Matt Lamon
What civic organizations do you belong to?	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
Have you ever been convicted of a felony?	No	No	No	No
Have you ever had any civil judgments against you?	No	No	No	No
Do you belong to your neighborhood or homeowner's association?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Have you participated in neighborhood planning?	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
If yes, how have you participated?	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.
What is your favorite book?	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
What is your favorite movie or television series?	The Big Lebowski	White Collar and Masterpiece Theatre	The Good Wife	The Walking Dead
What is your favorite hobby(ies)?	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
What is your favorite thing to do in Austin?	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

Name	Bill Worsham	Mandy Dealey	Margie Burciaga	Matt Lamon
Why are you running for office?	<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>
What are your top three priorities for Austin?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. 3. Taxation must stop increasing and the land development/redevelopment process must become understandable and predictable for all stakeholders. 	<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, & TNC's. Improve congestion with HOV lanes, timed on-ramps, & re-timed traffic lights using state prop 1 \$400 mil. Collaborate with private & public entities to solve congested corridors.</p> <p>Affordability: We're the 1st to campaign for city homestead exemption & 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 & replace leaking infrastructure. Provide incentives for homes & 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 & 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>

Name	Bill Worsham	Mandy Dealey	Margie Burciaga	Matt Lamon
<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, & 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>

Name	Bill Worsham	Mandy Dealey	Margie Burciaga	Matt Lamon
Why or why not?	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.
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>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.
Are the needs of downtown Austin and its outlying communities being balanced effectively?	No	No	No	No
Why or why not?	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.
Will you vote for or against subsidies to large employers?	Against	For	Against	For

Name	Bill Worsham	Mandy Dealey	Margie Burciaga	Matt Lamon
Will you require a total cost-benefit analysis before voting on any subsidies or loans to any businesses?	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
What are the strengths and weaknesses of Austin's new city district system?	<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>
Would you entertain any further changes to the system?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Do you believe that affordable housing should be distributed throughout the city?	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Do you support the energy and water conservation policies of the City of Austin utilities?	No	Yes	Yes	Yes