

Candidate Randi Shade
Place 3 Austin City Council

Candidate Questionnaire Request
The Building Owners and Managers Association of Austin
BOMA-Austin PAC

ISSUES

List and discuss your three major goals to accomplish during your term in office:

When I ran in 2008, my stated priorities were to ensure responsible growth, fight poverty, and deliver reliable, affordable city services. Three years later, I believe we have made progress on these issues; however, they remain my core priorities for the next three years as well.

In terms of responsible growth, I cast the tie-breaking vote to go forward with the construction of Water Treatment Plant 4, and I am the only incumbent candidate running in this election cycle who supports WTP4. Opponents of WTP4 are working very hard to make my support of the plant a campaign issue. I also helped bring 1500 jobs to Austin, improved evaluation of economic development agreements to increase public notice and input, enhanced support for small local businesses, and prevented a proposed project in the Barton Springs Recharge Zone without adherence to a tougher, new ordinance. I also helped launch the Pecan Street Project as an independent nonprofit with corporate and federal government funding to drive local smart grid technology research. My goals for the next term would be to continue growing our economy and attracting jobs at all income levels, and to continue working hard to ensure Austin does what it can to plan appropriately for infrastructure needs while safeguarding our environmental resources.

Fighting poverty is also an important concern of mine, and will remain so in my second term. As Chair of the Public Health and Human Services Committee, I drove a process to re-bid our social services contracts – something the city had not done since the 1990's. The purpose was to prioritize services to support our most vulnerable neighbors, but also to ensure tax dollars are used more efficiently. I plan to look for more ways to make the social service dollar go farther, and will be especially focused on investments that drive costs down in other areas of city government (i.e., reduced 911 calls, reduced reliance on emergency shelter for housing).

I also helped safeguard key city services during three difficult budget cycles. I helped craft a budget to expand the number of public safety officers on the streets, while preventing cuts to core services. I successfully advocated for increased parks maintenance support city-wide, created public-private partnerships to support youth sports city-wide, and voted to expand our commitment to renewable energy sources while minimizing rate increases. I already mentioned my support of WTP4. I plan to do more of the same in a second term, but hopefully with more success and greater focus, especially when it comes to prioritizing funding for activities directly related to providing clean, safe neighborhoods city-wide, and reliable, affordable utilities for all citizens. Of course, the City has an important role to play, along with other regional entities, on matters related to transportation, land-use, and economic development, but while not glamorous, I am a strong believer in ensuring that the city staff focuses on core city services first. We've got to build a budget process that supports that prioritization, too.

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RELATIONSHIPS

BOMA-Austin would like to meet with the Austin City Council members on occasion to discuss issues that affect our industry.

- **Would you be willing to meet with members of BOMA-Austin when matters of our industry will come before the city council?**

My door is always open at City Hall, so any member of BOMA is welcome to contact me with a concern about Austin – whether related to commercial real estate, or anything else! I will continue to seek input from BOMA before making important decisions that affect commercial properties in Austin. Austin is lucky to enjoy a real estate market that has not suffered as much as other cities. I want to make sure we keep it that way.

INPUT

BOMA-Austin is passionate about the condition of the City of Austin and helping our elected officials build and maintain a beautiful and vibrant city.

- **If you are elected how can we help you with these issues and other issues that are relevant to our industry and the good of the city?**

I am a huge proponent of public-private partnerships to support more robust programming across the city. I helped create one such partnership to support youth sports city-wide, and am involved in an even bigger undertaking to support Waller Creek. I actively participate in events like It's My Park Day and helped launch Flipped On Christmas this year (a privately funded, free to the public, sound/music/light show at the base of the Zilker Tree). I have worked with the Home Builders Association on home repair projects, and have worked with countless other organizations over the years to match corporate volunteers to community service opportunities. I would strongly encourage your members to get involved as well, both as sponsors and volunteers, in activities like these, and I am happy to help facilitate that in any way.

When it comes to city planning and infrastructure investments, I will not only seek your input, but will sometimes ask you to help spread the word about a decision that I think needs to be made in hopes that BOMA will help advance that point of view to other city leaders.

Please contact my office any time, but especially if you have a problem! I'd rather hear about any difficulties before they become bigger problems that may require more complex solutions. My office door is always open. Your government relations department does an excellent job of staying on top of most city issues, and I encourage you to make your opinions heard early on in the process of making decisions that impact the city.

My office would also be happy to receive any industry publications with quantitative or qualitative data about the commercial real estate industry, both locally and regionally, in order to keep on top of industry trends and make fully informed decisions.

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ENDORSEMENTS

BOMA-Austin is carefully considering candidates.

- **Would you be willing to receive an endorsement and financial assistance from BOMA-Austin?**

Yes. I will also gladly accept contributions from individual members, and would encourage members to display my yard signs at their homes and businesses, especially large commercial lots – great for big signs!

- **Would you display the endorsement on your website and/or in literature where other endorsements are listed?**

Yes.