

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE 2008
Austin Women's Political Caucus – Political Action Committee
P.O. Box 12383, Austin, Texas 78711

Please respond to all questions and fax to the attention of Dana Nelson at (512) 407-9794 or email to dang3@austin.rr.com. Completed questionnaires must be returned to the AWPC-PAC by Friday, April 4, 2008. Feel free to provide additional materials.

The AWPC-PAC is a non-partisan organization that supports women and men in elective office who uphold the following priorities:

- 1) full and equal participation of women in all aspects of political, economic, and social life;
- 2) the Equal Rights Amendment;
- 3) a woman's right to choose, without restrictions on this right, to have a safe and legal abortion; and
- 4) affordable, accessible childcare.

Candidates who do not support caucus issues or fully complete the questionnaire are ineligible for endorsement.

Candidate Name: Randi Shade	Office Seeking: City Council, Place 3
Campaign Manager: Marti Bier	Phone/Fax: 512.391.6290 / 512.474.0995
Campaign Address: P.O. Box 301479, Austin, TX 78703	Email: Randi@RandiShade.com

1. Do you support the following issues? Please circle yes or no for each.
 - Full and equal participation of women in all aspects of political, economic, and social life?
 Yes No
 - The Equal Rights Amendment?
 Yes No
 - A woman's right to choose, without restrictions on this right, to have a safe and legal abortion?
 Yes No
 - Affordable, accessible childcare?
 Yes No

2. Please share examples that support your position on one or more issues listed in question #1?

As the first openly gay or lesbian candidate for Austin City Council, I have a deep appreciation for equal rights. I have been actively involved in groups that fight for equality, particularly Equality Texas, Atticus Circle, and the Human Rights Campaign, serving as a Federal Club Council member for that organization. Last year, I was part of the Annual National Out & Equal Workplace Summit, and was part of the team that successfully recruited the Summit to take place in Austin in the fall of 2008. I'm also a mother, who has both worked and stayed at home, so I understand the need for affordable, accessible childcare. I have donated to Annie's List, Emily's List, Planned Parenthood and Jane's Due Process, and I have been deeply involved in many women's political causes over the years mostly through my association with the friends and colleagues I got to know working for Governor Ann Richards. I have also served on the Committee of the Board for the Foundation for Women's Resources.

3. Describe one of your accomplishments that you feel made an impact in the lives of women.

In 1990 I was the DFW fundraising coordinator for Ann Richards' successful 1990 gubernatorial campaign. Ann's election clearly had an important impact on the lives of women everywhere, so I am proud to have played a role. Besides completely changing the direction of my life from a professional standpoint (i.e., after business school instead of taking the typical MBA route, I went to work in the Governor's Office where I launched AmeriCorps in Texas), working for Ann and being mentored by Ann and so many of her friends taught me how important my mentorship of other women could be, especially in the workplace. I have impacted the lives of many women by being the kind of colleague and boss who is supportive in every way possible. I have many former female employees and colleagues who regularly comment on the impact I've had on their lives, and I have the support of virtually all of them on this campaign.

4. Please elaborate on any community involvement that demonstrates the issues that are most important to you.

I have always been an active community volunteer and have served as the Executive Director of the Austin Entrepreneurs Foundation and in executive roles for City Year and Teach for America, two leading national nonprofits. I've also served as a board member and been an active grassroots volunteer for countless organizations throughout the community and across a wide variety of impact areas. Most recently I have volunteered for Zach Scott Theatre, Equality Texas, Atticus Circle, and served on the following boards: Association of Women in Technology – Austin, Foundation for Women's Resources Committee of the Board, Austin Clean Energy Initiative, Austin Entrepreneurs Foundation, Central Texas Better Business Bureau, Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Austin, OneStar Foundation, PeopleFund, Sigma Delta Tau Sorority's Texas Education Foundation, TexChange, Texas Hillel Foundation, UT Commission on 125, and the Volunteer Center (now Hands on Central Texas). I also chair my neighborhood's park committee and am active with my son's school, serving on the Parent's Auxiliary and on the executive director search committee.

5. What would you suggest to increase the number of women in political office at the local and state level?

I would work with important local and state groups like AWPC and Annie's List to encourage more women to become candidates, and encourage voters to support those who do. I would also do more outreach to other women's organizations in an effort to remind women how important running for office can be regardless of professional track. For example, in my own situation it was while I've been an at-home mom that I became motivated to seek office myself rather than watching from the sidelines, and it has been the encouragement and support of friends from the professional associations and voluntary organizations of which I have been a part even more than my political colleagues who have driven my campaign.

6. Do you support city funding for the operation of the Austin Women's Hospital that provides a variety of services for women and their children, including tubal ligation procedures and family planning services?

Yes.

7. Do you support city funding for family planning services without restriction?

Yes.