

ISSUE #1 CITY COUNCIL STRUCTURE & MAYORAL POWERS

The city has become large and representation has remained limited (6 at-large council members and the mayor). Government in Central Texas is often run by a series of “buffers” including city managers and appointed/unelected committee members and boards of directors.

1) Would you support another city-wide referendum to consider single member districts or a formula that includes single member districts?

I don't believe that the current at-large system is inappropriate for Austin, but I do believe that it's possible we could be better served by a mixed system that incorporates both single-member districts and at-large districts. I believe that a mixed system could help safeguard against “ward politics” by ensuring that every citizen has more than just one representative, while also offering the opportunity for more accountable, more accessible, and possibly more diverse representation.

2) What are your thoughts about a “Strong Mayor” or “Stronger Mayor” system of government? Would you consider supporting a city-wide referendum or charter election to institute a “Strong” or “Stronger Mayor” system of government?

I am open to considering other systems of government for our City, but I support our current Council-Manager form of government because I believe it offers the greatest opportunity for stability and continuity while also giving citizens power over policy and appropriation without politicizing the administration of basic city services any more than is necessary. Our current system allows a “strong” mayor to lead if he / she chooses to rise to the occasion, and some mayors have done so. The fact that many others have not is what gives me pause with respect to changing our current form of government.

ISSUE #2 WATER CONSERVATION

In August of 2007 City Council passed a two-day a week watering schedule allowing for no variances of any kind for Evapo Transpiration Systems or drip/bubbler (sub surface) irrigation apparatus. These types of technology are equal to or exceed the savings of the twice a week schedule and are common in other cities with these types of conservation ordinances.

1) Do you believe that BOMA Austin and other affected groups should be allowed to participate as voting members of any commission/board/other to help craft such legislation?

Yes, absolutely, I believe that members of BOMA and other affected groups should not just be “allowed” but actually encouraged to participate fully in the political and policy-making process.

2) Do you believe that common-sense variances should be added to the existing ordinance to allow technology accommodations?

If there are common-sense variances to the existing ordinance that would clearly help property owners succeed and also help the City better meet its water conservation goals, then yes.

3) Would you be proactive with your office to see that these variances or ordinance amendments are introduced and approved?

Yes, again, to the extent that it is clear that such variances would help property owners succeed and also help the City better meet its water conservation goals.

ISSUE #3 PANHANDLING/HOMELESSNESS/PUBLIC SAFETY

The homeless/panhandling/transient issue has been another issue of great concern to our membership and to our tenants.

1) Do you believe that there is more to be done?

Yes.

2) What more can be done?

I plan to focus significant time and energy working to eliminate the impact that poverty has on our community's safety and well-being, with a vision of equal opportunity for all Austinites. Too often issues related to poverty are at the bottom of our City's priority list rather than at the top. This has direct consequences on our public safety network in particular. Our public safety personnel are regularly performing tasks that can be closer to social work than law enforcement and emergency response. Our City contracts with more than 60 local health and human service organizations and spends tens of millions of dollars each year, but I believe we've got to do more to create solutions and leverage the strengths of our local nonprofits, and help them better address the challenges our community faces. I plan to build on my extensive experience in the nonprofit sector to improve the way the City does business with basic needs providers. I want to see how our spending to support health and human services has changed over the last 20 years in conjunction with our growth and in comparison with other cities. Armed with this information I will be better equipped to consider advisable funding levels for other community priorities, too. It is wonderful that Austin is consistently recognized for its economic vitality, but until - at a bare minimum - everyone's basic human needs are met, we have very few bragging rights as far as I am concerned. If elected, I will also work hard to *create* new resources by bringing private sector partners to the table, and I will actively pursue additional sources of federal funding that will likely become available with the upcoming change in White House administrations. Austin must not only get its "fair share" of those funds, it should hopefully get even *more* - by competing as successfully on that front as we do on so many others.

ISSUE #4 RELATIONSHIPS

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

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

Yes. I believe that meeting with, listening to, and working with citizens and citizen groups impacted by city policy is the most important aspect of the job I am seeking. Being accessible and accountable to the community is the fundamental promise of my candidacy.

ISSUE #5 COMMUNITY 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.

- 1) 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 appreciate this question very much – it is not one I’ve seen on a single other candidate questionnaire. Thank you. I promise to give you more specific ways to help if I am elected, but for now, what I am looking for most is a willingness to share ideas with openness and honesty and with respect and recognition for opposing points of view.

ISSUE #6 ENDORSEMENTS

BOMA Austin is carefully considering candidates for city council.

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

Yes, of course. Like the members of BOMA Austin, I care deeply about our community and am concerned about the direction it’s going. I share your desire to have City Council members who are responsive, effective and accountable. I will do a better job than the incumbent on all three counts. That’s why I am running, and that’s why I hope to earn your support. Please feel free to contact me directly to ask any follow-up questions or to engage in further dialogue. My campaign number is 391-6290, and my email address is questions@randishade.com. Thanks again!