



2011 City Council Candidate Survey

Candidate name: Randi Shade

Candidate web site: www.RandiShade.com

For the first two questions, please limit each response to 100 words or less.

- 1. Please describe your background and leadership experience that have prepared you to be an Austin City Council Member.**

I graduated from UT where I served as student body president, and then earned an MBA from Harvard Business School. I spent four years in the Governor's Office launching and running AmeriCorps statewide. I founded and sold an Internet company, led the Austin Entrepreneurs Foundation, and served on the Board of the Greater Austin Chamber, as well as many other nonprofit boards.

In my first term I've chaired the Public Health and Human Services Committee, served on the Audit and Finance Committee, Emerging Technology Committee, Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise and Small Business Committee, and the Pecan Street Project board.

- 2. Please outline your top three priorities to accomplish as an Austin City Council Member.**

As I seek a second term, my core priorities remain the same as in my first term: 1. support core city services that result in clean, safe neighborhoods, 2. support responsible growth that includes attracting jobs at all income levels and planning appropriately for infrastructure needs while safeguarding our environmental resources, and 3. running an office that is accessible and responsive to solving citizen problems.

For the following questions, please respond with either "Yes" or "No" and then provide no more than 100 words supporting your answer. Please note that summary tables of candidate responses will be posted on www.KeepAustinVoting.com and will only show "Yes" or "No" as provided. Full responses will be shown on the web page created for each candidate.

- 3. Economic Development: Will you support economic development agreements with companies that qualify under the City's policy that was recommended by the citizens of the Mayor's Task Force on the Economy and approved by City Council in 2003?**

Yes. Our program is working well, so any efforts to revise existing policy must respect the countless hours of work that resulted in the current policy and must also be carefully examined by members of the task force to prevent unintended consequences. That is the approach I took when co-sponsoring the modifications made in 2008, and that's the approach I would expect to take going forward.



- 4. Regional Planning: Will you oppose any comprehensive plan presented for consideration by City Council that is inconsistent with the region's CAMPO 2035 transportation plan?**

No. The CAMPO plan has been carefully vetted, and I strongly support transportation improvement projects and recognize that we all need to do a better job prioritizing regional coordination, especially with respect to transportation. I support the CAMPO regional plan and expect the two plans to compliment each other. Discrepancies are certainly possible, but I will reserve judgment until I understand what the impact of any discrepancies would be.

- 5. Water: Austin City Council authorized funding for all remaining construction phase services for the new water treatment plant. To date significant funds have been expended and/or contracted for site acquisition, site preparation, and construction. Will you oppose efforts to stop construction of the plant?**

Yes. I will continue to support Water Treatment Plant 4 and am committed to bringing the project in on-time, on-budget, with minimal inconvenience to neighborhoods impacted by construction, and with maximum attention paid to environmental and crew safety.

- 6. Energy: Will you oppose any Austin Energy rate structure that disproportionately impacts any class of customers compared to its cost of service?**

Yes. The Austin Energy Generation Plan recently adopted by Council, including the affordability goal as part of it, is a reasonable attempt to balance our community's environmental goals with the need to ensure that purchasing decisions don't place a disproportionate burden on any one class of rate payer.

- 7. Land Use: Will you support land development code changes that support denser development as presented in the comprehensive plan's preferred growth scenario?**

Yes. By and large the direction of the plan reflects a sensible desire for density where it is most appropriate.

- 8. Regulatory Climate: Based on surveys conducted by the Austin Chamber of Commerce and its regional partners, regulatory issues rank as one of the top three concerns for local and regional businesses. Do you agree that the City's regulatory climate places an undue burden, especially on small businesses? Please describe your top priority for improving the regulatory climate.**

Yes. There is too much red tape. Over-regulation, especially within our land use code, is placing a burden on those in our community who can least afford it. Our regulatory practices are driving up the costs of living and of doing business beyond what I believe is consistent with the



emphasis our community claims to place on affordability. We need to streamline and make more sensible the permitting process and code compliance. We also need to understand the fiscal impacts of regulatory changes on property and business owners *before* approving them.

- 9. Traffic Congestion: Based on surveys conducted by the Austin Chamber of Commerce and its regional partners, traffic congestion ranks as one of the top three concerns for local and regional businesses. For the proposed 2012 bond election, will you support a proposition that allocates significant funds (greater than or equal to the amount for urban rail) to improve the city's multi-modal mobility system, specifically for vehicular congestion relief? Please list your top three priorities for improving mobility.**

My top three priorities for improving mobility are to reduce peak-hour congestion in major corridors, secure better east-west connections, and continue working on the gaps identified in the City's strategic mobility plan for intersection improvements. A 2012 Bond should be as comprehensive and multi-modal as we can responsibly afford, but I am not committing to a dollar amount for rail or any other projects at this time. I look forward to learning more from your organization and others about which key projects you feel will best serve the needs of our community.

For the final question, please limit the response to 100 words or less.

- 10. Urban Rail: Before supporting a proposition for voter consideration of urban rail, what are the priorities and questions that you believe must be addressed?**

Who will pay for it, and how? Who will ride it? What is the route? Who is the operator? What is the operator's track record? What is the operator's business model for operating, maintaining, and expanding if/when built?