Austin Neighborhoods Council
City Council Candidate Questionnaire - 2018

Office/District:	**ANC**	**1**	**1**	**1**
Candidate Name:		**Lewis Conway, Jr.**	**Vincent Harding**	**Natasha Harper-Madison**
Name of your neighborhood association:		University Hills	University Hills	Davis Thompson Neighborhood Association
How long have you been a member of your neighborhood association?:			I think I joined in 2014 but not sure	
ANC Platform	**Preferred Answer**			
1. ***Promote Affordable Neighborhoods.***	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**
a. Support legislation that ends the inequities between residential and commercial & industrial property valuations for property tax purposes, and that authorizes a fixed amount homestead exemption.	Y	Y	Y	N
b. Increase fairness and transparency in the property tax system by adopting an ordinance requiring disclosure of real estate sales prices.	Y	Y	N	N
c. Ensure that all available tools, such as a homestead property tax exemption, are being used to grant tax relief to as many Austinites as possible.	Y	Y	Y	Y
d. Enact policies that eliminate taxpayer subsidies and fee waivers for special event promoters by making for-profit special events bear the full cost of the City resources that they utilize.	Y	Y	Y	N
e. Strengthen City affordable housing programs in all areas of the City.	Y	Y	Y	Y

Austin Neighborhoods Council
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Office/District:	**ANC**	**1**	**1**	**1**
Candidate Name:		**Lewis Conway, Jr.**	**Vincent Harding**	**Natasha Harper-Madison**
f. Increase funding for Travis Central Appraisal District so that it can adequately respond to commercial/industrial property appraisal protests.	Y	N	Y	N
2. ***Preserve Neighborhood Character.***	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**
a. In the Land Development Code (LDC) rewrite, preserve compatibility standards, the McMansion Ordinance, setback requirements, and impervious cover limitations.	Y	N/A	Y	N
b. Per page 207 of the Imagine Austin Plan, acknowledge that neighborhood plans were crafted based on the above ordinances and other provisions of the LDC. Ensure that protection of neighborhood character is a top priority of the LDC rewrite by retaining these LDC provisions and the approaches taken in the neighborhood plans.	Y	Y	Y	N
c. Preserve neighborhood character by ensuring that the neighborhood planning process is neighborhood-driven and not a top-down exercise.	Y	Y	Y	N
d. Enact policies that limit the location of entertainment districts in or adjacent to residential areas, and reduce the numbers of stealth dorms and commercial short-term rentals, as well as other uses that adversely impact neighborhood character and livability.	Y	Y	N	N
e. Adopt city policies and support state legislation that will preserve and adequately fund excellent neighborhood schools.	Y	Y	Y	Y
3. ***Manage Growth and Invest in Infrastructure and City Services.***	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**

Austin Neighborhoods Council
City Council Candidate Questionnaire - 2018

Office/District:	**ANC**	**1**	**1**	**1**
Candidate Name:		**Lewis Conway, Jr.**	**Vincent Harding**	**Natasha Harper-Madison**
a. Maximize use of "impact fees" so growth and developers pay for the new and improved infrastructure that is required for their projects, including transportation infrastructure.	Y	Y	Y	Y
b. Develop thoroughly vetted transportation options that address traffic congestion.	Y	Y	Y	Y
c. Prioritize protection and acquisition of parks, open space, and other "green infrastructure."	Y	Y	Y	N
d. Develop and invest in flood- and fire-safety programs and area-specific emergency response plans for areas with known flood and fire risks.	Y	Y	Y	Y
e. Repair the City's aging infrastructure.	Y	Y	Y	Y
f. Support nuisance abatement policies to address properties with criminal and code complaints.	Y	N	N	N
g. Require development to provide for onsite water quality controls and sidewalks by eliminating "fees in lieu."	Y	Y	Y	N
4. Prioritize Water Conservation.	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**
a. Prioritize conservation and re-use of water over developing new supplies outside Austin.	Y	Y	Y	N
b. Require new development to be net-zero for water use.	Y	Y	Y	N
c. Redesign and diversify Austin Water Utility's (AWU) business model so it doesn't depend on revenue solely from selling treated water.	Y	Y	Y	N
d. Require AWU to develop and implement a plan for water-efficient infrastructure citywide.	Y	Y	Y	Y
e. Require decentralization of Austin's water supply.	Y	N	Y	Y

Austin Neighborhoods Council
City Council Candidate Questionnaire - 2018

Office/District:	**ANC**	**1**	**1**	**1**
Candidate Name:		**Lewis Conway, Jr.**	**Vincent Harding**	**Natasha Harper-Madison**
5. Protect the Environment.	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**
a. Preserve the SOS Ordinance and support watershed protection, preserve the Heritage Tree Ordinance and support maintenance and renewal of the urban tree canopy, and preserve the Waterfront Overlay, Lake Austin Overlay, and Hill Country Roadway ordinances.	Y	Y & N	Y	Y
b. Waivers and variances to the SOS, Heritage Tree, Waterfront Overlay, and Lake Austin Overlay, and Hill Country Roadway ordinances should require a super-majority vote of applicable boards, commissions and City Council for approval.	Y	Y	Y	N
c. Increase Austin Energy's 2020 goal for renewable energy sources above the present 35%.	Y	Y	Y	Y
6. Change the City's Focus From Special Interests To Its Citizens.	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**
a. In the LDC rewrite and all City ordinances, protect the rights of property owners, neighborhood associations, and other interested parties to appeal City staff and board decisions on development approvals.	Y	N/A	Y	Y
b. Reprioritize the budget to increase funding for parks, libraries, and other underfunded services.	Y	N	Y	N
c. Require the Mayor's "State of the City" address to be held at a city event open to all Austinites.	Y	Y	Y	Y
d. Keep Austin Energy and the Austin Water Utility under the control of the City Council.	Y	Y	Y	Y
e. Moderate city policies that foster runaway growth and focus instead on fostering greater income equity.	Y	Y	Y	Y

Austin Neighborhoods Council
City Council Candidate Questionnaire - 2018

Office/District:	**ANC**	**1**	**1**	**1**
Candidate Name:		**Lewis Conway, Jr.**	**Vincent Harding**	**Natasha Harper-Madison**
f. Focus economic development incentives on Austin-based small and medium sized businesses.	Y	Y	Y	Y
g. Reform City planning and public engagement processes to be citizen-driven and to increase City Council accountability to the public.	Y	Y	Y	Y
h. Strengthen and strictly enforce the lobbyist ordinance.	Y	Y	Y	Y
7. Other Issues.	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**
a. Do you support the City of Austin providing financial incentives and land for a private sports venture (McKalla Place)?	N	N	Y	N
b. Do you support the ban on commercial Type 2 (non owner occupied) short term rentals in residential zoned areas?	Y	Y	Y	N
c. Do you approve of the Texas Legislature vote to prohibit the use of housing linkage fees on new construction in the City to help build affordable housing?	N	Y	N	Y
d. Should the City's density policies facilitate, incentivize or otherwise encourage the elimination or reduction in the number of single family homes or single family zoning in Central Austin neighborhoods?	N	N	N	Y
e. Do you think that the 2016 Transportation Bond for $720 million has relieved and improved traffic congestion in Austin?		N	Y	N
f. Do you support the Tenant Relocation Ordinance?	Y	Y	Y	Y
g. Do you support the 2 citizen-backed ballot initiatives concerning an independent audit the City of Austin and CodeNext?		Y	N	N
h. Do you support the City Manager creating a new process for the rewrite of the land development code?		Y	Y	Y

Austin Neighborhoods Council
City Council Candidate Questionnaire Comments - 2018
Lewis Conway, Jr. - District 1

I struggle with this: Preserve the SOS Ordinance and support watershed protection, preserve the Heritage Tree Ordinance and support maintenance and renewal of the urban tree canopy, and preserve the Waterfront Overlay, Lake Austin Overlay, and Hill Country Roadway ordinances.

I'm concerned that we aren't making any efforts to address Environmental Justice issues East of I-35, and continuing to support legislation that reinforces the very efforts that have contributed most to those issues.

Austin Neighborhoods Council
City Council Candidate Questionnaire Comments - 2018
Natasha Harper-Madison - District 1

It's extremely frustrating to me that these questions are designed as absolutes. These are extremely nuanced issues that require thorough discussion.

I've been an Austinite all my life, and I've worked hard in my community to try and make it better. I appreciate the ANC's efforts to do that same, but I don't believe that the ANC's answers are always the right ones. We have to tackle our problems head-on, think outside the box, use innovative approaches and alternative institutions.

Do I believe in equity, and working to improving the lives of ALL Austinites? Absolutely. But I also believe that many of the policies that ANC supports have worsened the affordability and equity problem in our city, such as the Save Our Springs ordinance which limited development on the west side of Austin and forced the east side to bear much of the burden of providing housing and amenities for our growing city.

I'd like to think that when those policies were put into place we did not know of the potential negative effects they may have. That by saying "NO" to growth in West Austin, in the city center, and along the corridors we would be effectively forcing many people out. I'd also like to believe that you care about our City, just as much as I do, and while we may not agree on everything, there are many ways we can work together. If elected, I can promise that even when we may disagree, my door will be open and I will do my best to do what is right.

Austin Neighborhoods Council
City Council Candidate Questionnaire - 2018

Office/District:	**ANC**	**3**	**3**	**3**	**3**	**3**	**3**
Candidate Name:		**Susana Almanza**	**Jessica Cohen**	**Justin Jacobson**	**Amit Motwani**	**James Valadez**	**Pio Renteria**
Name of your neighborhood association:		Montopolis Neighborhood Association	N/A	N/A	Montopolis Neighborhood Association	East Cesar Chavez	Didn't respond to questionnaire.
How long have you been a member of your neighborhood association?:		15 years	N/A	N/A	0 days	8 years 10 months	
ANC Platform	**Preferred Answer**						
1. ***Promote Affordable Neighborhoods.***	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**
a. Support legislation that ends the inequities between residential and commercial & industrial property valuations for property tax purposes, and that authorizes a fixed amount homestead exemption.	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	
b. Increase fairness and transparency in the property tax system by adopting an ordinance requiring disclosure of real estate sales prices.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
c. Ensure that all available tools, such as a homestead property tax exemption, are being used to grant tax relief to as many Austinites as possible.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
d. Enact policies that eliminate taxpayer subsidies and fee waivers for special event promoters by making for-profit special events bear the full cost of the City resources that they utilize.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
e. Strengthen City affordable housing programs in all areas of the City.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	

Austin Neighborhoods Council
City Council Candidate Questionnaire - 2018

Office/District:	**ANC**	**3**	**3**	**3**	**3**	**3**	**3**
Candidate Name:		**Susana Almanza**	**Jessica Cohen**	**Justin Jacobson**	**Amit Motwani**	**James Valadez**	**Pio Renteria**
f. Increase funding for Travis Central Appraisal District so that it can adequately respond to commercial/industrial property appraisal protests.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
2. ***Preserve Neighborhood Character.***	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**
a. In the Land Development Code (LDC) rewrite, preserve compatibility standards, the McMansion Ordinance, setback requirements, and impervious cover limitations.	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	
b. Per page 207 of the Imagine Austin Plan, acknowledge that neighborhood plans were crafted based on the above ordinances and other provisions of the LDC. Ensure that protection of neighborhood character is a top priority of the LDC rewrite by retaining these LDC provisions and the approaches taken in the neighborhood plans.	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	
c. Preserve neighborhood character by ensuring that the neighborhood planning process is neighborhood-driven and not a top-down exercise.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
d. Enact policies that limit the location of entertainment districts in or adjacent to residential areas, and reduce the numbers of stealth dorms and commercial short-term rentals, as well as other uses that adversely impact neighborhood character and livability.	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	
e. Adopt city policies and support state legislation that will preserve and adequately fund excellent neighborhood schools.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
3. ***Manage Growth and Invest in Infrastructure and City Services.***	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**

Austin Neighborhoods Council
City Council Candidate Questionnaire - 2018

Office/District:	**ANC**	**3**	**3**	**3**	**3**	**3**	**3**
Candidate Name:		**Susana Almanza**	**Jessica Cohen**	**Justin Jacobson**	**Amit Motwani**	**James Valadez**	**Pio Renteria**
a. Maximize use of "impact fees" so growth and developers pay for the new and improved infrastructure that is required for their projects, including transportation infrastructure.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
b. Develop thoroughly vetted transportation options that address traffic congestion.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
c. Prioritize protection and acquisition of parks, open space, and other "green infrastructure."	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
d. Develop and invest in flood- and fire-safety programs and area-specific emergency response plans for areas with known flood and fire risks.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
e. Repair the City's aging infrastructure.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
f. Support nuisance abatement policies to address properties with criminal and code complaints.	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	
g. Require development to provide for onsite water quality controls and sidewalks by eliminating "fees in lieu."	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	
4. Prioritize Water Conservation.	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**
a. Prioritize conservation and re-use of water over developing new supplies outside Austin.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
b. Require new development to be net-zero for water use.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
c. Redesign and diversify Austin Water Utility's (AWU) business model so it doesn't depend on revenue solely from selling treated water.	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	
d. Require AWU to develop and implement a plan for water-efficient infrastructure citywide.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
e. Require decentralization of Austin's water supply.	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	

Austin Neighborhoods Council
City Council Candidate Questionnaire - 2018

Office/District:	**ANC**	**3**	**3**	**3**	**3**	**3**	**3**
Candidate Name:		**Susana Almanza**	**Jessica Cohen**	**Justin Jacobson**	**Amit Motwani**	**James Valadez**	**Pio Renteria**
5. Protect the Environment.	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**
a. Preserve the SOS Ordinance and support watershed protection, preserve the Heritage Tree Ordinance and support maintenance and renewal of the urban tree canopy, and preserve the Waterfront Overlay, Lake Austin Overlay, and Hill Country Roadway ordinances.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
b. Waivers and variances to the SOS, Heritage Tree, Waterfront Overlay, and Lake Austin Overlay, and Hill Country Roadway ordinances should require a super-majority vote of applicable boards, commissions and City Council for approval.	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	
c. Increase Austin Energy's 2020 goal for renewable energy sources above the present 35%.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
6. Change the City's Focus From Special Interests To Its Citizens.	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**
a. In the LDC rewrite and all City ordinances, protect the rights of property owners, neighborhood associations, and other interested parties to appeal City staff and board decisions on development approvals.	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	
b. Reprioritize the budget to increase funding for parks, libraries, and other underfunded services.	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	
c. Require the Mayor's "State of the City" address to be held at a city event open to all Austinites.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
d. Keep Austin Energy and the Austin Water Utility under the control of the City Council.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
e. Moderate city policies that foster runaway growth and focus instead on fostering greater income equity.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	

Austin Neighborhoods Council
City Council Candidate Questionnaire - 2018

Office/District:	**ANC**	**3**	**3**	**3**	**3**	**3**	**3**
Candidate Name:		**Susana Almanza**	**Jessica Cohen**	**Justin Jacobson**	**Amit Motwani**	**James Valadez**	**Pio Renteria**
f. Focus economic development incentives on Austin-based small and medium sized businesses.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
g. Reform City planning and public engagement processes to be citizen-driven and to increase City Council accountability to the public.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
h. Strengthen and strictly enforce the lobbyist ordinance.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
7. Other Issues.	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**
a. Do you support the City of Austin providing financial incentives and land for a private sports venture (McKalla Place)?	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	
b. Do you support the ban on commercial Type 2 (non owner occupied) short term rentals in residential zoned areas?	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	
c. Do you approve of the Texas Legislature vote to prohibit the use of housing linkage fees on new construction in the City to help build affordable housing?	N	N	N	N	N	N	
d. Should the City's density policies facilitate, incentivize or otherwise encourage the elimination or reduction in the number of single family homes or single family zoning in Central Austin neighborhoods?	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	
e. Do you think that the 2016 Transportation Bond for $720 million has relieved and improved traffic congestion in Austin?		N	N	N	N	N	
f. Do you support the Tenant Relocation Ordinance?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
g. Do you support the 2 citizen-backed ballot initiatives concerning an independent audit the City of Austin and CodeNext?		Y	N	N	N	Y	
h. Do you support the City Manager creating a new process for the rewrite of the land development code?		N	Y	N	Y	Y	

Reclaim, Remain and Rebuild our City for People of all Incomes.

Austin Neighborhoods Council

City Council Candidate Questionnaire Comments - 2018

Justin Jacobson - District 3

First, I'd like to thank the Austin Neighborhood Council for all the hard work it has done in relation to civic engagement and giving our residents a strong voice on municipal issues.

I want you to know that I go into this race because of how interwoven Austin is in my sense of identity. I'm a fourth generation Austinite, this is where my parents, meet and started their story, after losing my mother over ten years ago, this is the strongest things I have left of her. Yet, there is this ever increasingly sense of not seeing a place for myself in this city, let alone trying to get around in a reasonable and stress free fashion. I have so enjoyed growing up with this city. I'm enriched by both its past and all of the new opportunities it has brought me. Yet it is starting to feel like it is out growing me.

Austin is a rich tapestry of a place, one that has seen grow at an explosive rate. It's threads come in all colors, varied fibers, and lengths short and long. I contribute but one of those to it. As we are embarking on making the next portion, our hurried construction is leading to frayed edges and the substitution of cheap synthetic material. Our current moment does not leave us wanting for solutions to our most pressing issues, but for direction. In both our community and staff in city government, we have the talent to execute our plans. Sadly, when council leads from behind, fails to listen to all residents, leaves us in a position where we have to go one direction or another only, never full heartedly working toward something resembling compromise, can we be anything but surprised when the can gets kicked, yet again, on our problems?

It's this maddening predicament that spurred me into action. I'm tired of hearing that density equal affordability, that those want to keep character and all the intangible aspects of what makes home as overly emotional persons, that if we could only have an "honest intellectual debate" we would get somewhere. That patronizing perspective doesn't value our neighbors as they should be. These sentiments are well pronounced in the process that was CodeNext. Regardless of where you came down on it, if it was thrown out because it became so unworkable, why do those that had the ability to make it more workable, at many points during the process, get the chance to it again?

I've been a grassroots political organizer on many campaigns over the past few years. I know the power of getting out an going door to door to reach folks. I think it high time to have a city councilor that'll get out and do that not only in the attempt to garner votes. I want to be a leader that channels the wishes of the people, not those of special interests. When distance in our opinions arise, I'll have the courage to fill the role as an honest broker between folks. We have all got to come together more to tackle our challenges. We will also have to really listen to one another in that process, too. Perhaps it's time for the 28 year old to assume the role of the adult in the room?

In the above statements, I speak a lot to the stylistic and leaderships challenges that we face, but I genuinely feel those are the first and primary road blocks on our journey to being a more equitable, affordable, mobile, welcoming, and sustainable as a city. Make no mistake, though, I do relish the chance to engage in the wonky side of things.

I would like to address some of the "No" answers I gave to your questions above

7b. I cannot say I would support a total ban on type 2 rentals. I don't want to see folks purchasing property with intention of using like a hotel. That is an abuse of the positive benefits derived from folks being able to generate extra income from their dwellings. I know we can come to a common sense framework, that would, say, allow an individual leaving town for a period of time to take care of a sick loved one, to keep their home and possessions in the most flexible manner. I want type 2 rentals to have a more targeted, nuanced, and regulated way to exist in Austin. We can do that.

7e. While the 2016 bond was a step in the right direction. It's not enough to keep pace with how quickly our transit/transportation/traffic problem is deteriorating. We need to acknowledge that Austin deserves a 21st century transportation system, and where is the council to heard on that? Beyond the corridors identified in the bond and respectable projects currently being worked on, we have to begin to say that Austin must have high capacity options like rail, dedicated transit corridors, a smarter transit grid, and the courage to work out final mile solutions to get people from their front doors to the bus doors, and it needs to better serves those who currently depend on it the most. There's so much more work to be done here.

7g. On the efficiency bond, when there's an even cursory look into the origins of this proposal, I can only see it as the wolf in sheep's clothing for what it is. I do not want us to ever shrink away with looking at how we spend taxpayers hard earned dollars, but this measure adds yet more cost to the city, and it's very suspect as to what would be done with its findings. I believe they will overly deleterious in the future. As for the second one that concerns CodeNext... I have much respect for the folks that worked to prevent something they cared so much about. However, I don't think the is the most effective way we could go about having people engage in this process. I think here, again, we could be setting ourselves up for some unintended consequences. While at face value this gives the citizens more power, how long is it till builders, developers, or any other deep pocketed interests comes in and co-opts this process? What would be our recourse then? Ultimately, had we of had the leadership in place to begin with, that would have listen and acted upon citizens desires and concerns, I don't think we would have made it to this point. This is yet another manifestation on the lack of heartfelt, sincere, and capable leadership needed at city hall. I'm running to change that. At the end of the day, these two initiatives take city government in a direction that I find troubling.

7h. Of course we need another plan of action post CodeNext. I also have an open mind to and high hopes for our new City Manager. I'm sure he could come up with something sufficient. I think that CodeNext fell apart because council didn't do enough. The over reliance on consultants, city staff, and the repeated dismissals of constituents not feeling any ownership in the process doomed it from the outset. And now, we think we can come up with something without the strong leadership of the council? That's the height of hilarity. As the baby was thrown out with the bathwater, council was quick to point the finger at

anyone but themselves. They need to be more vested in the success of this process by remaking it themselves. Perhaps that'll be the only way to make them respond to the heat of constituent concerns in the future, their ownership of failure.

Austin Neighborhoods Council

City Council Candidate Questionnaire Comments - 2018

Amit Motwani - District 3

Re: 2d - I feel it imprudent to make a binary support statement here when so much is in flux re: LDC

Re: 3f - I prefer a discussion before binarily saying Yes, as interpretation of "criminal" nuisance varies from area to area, and more importantly, related to racial issues - it would be a potentially irresponsible "Yes" without making considerations that should be based on Mayor's Institutional Racism and Systemic Inequity Task Force guidance.

Re: 7g - I can't make binary statement on both referenda in a Y/N format - this is bigger than Y/N; I also have ideas on funding intricacies of efficiency audit, personally. I believe the 10-1 system was put in place to ensure citizen representation, and I also believe the voters will make their opinions known on both these matters on Nov.

Austin Neighborhoods Council
City Council Candidate Questionnaire - 2018

Office/District:	**ANC**	**8**	**8**
Candidate Name:		**Rich DePalma**	**Bobby Levinski**
Name of your neighborhood association:		Meridian	Maple Run
How long have you been a member of your neighborhood association?:		Since 2008	~9 months
ANC Platform	**Preferred Answer**		
1. ***Promote Affordable Neighborhoods.***	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**
a. Support legislation that ends the inequities between residential and commercial & industrial property valuations for property tax purposes, and that authorizes a fixed amount homestead exemption.	Y	Y	Y
b. Increase fairness and transparency in the property tax system by adopting an ordinance requiring disclosure of real estate sales prices.	Y	N	Y
c. Ensure that all available tools, such as a homestead property tax exemption, are being used to grant tax relief to as many Austinites as possible.	Y	Y	Y
d. Enact policies that eliminate taxpayer subsidies and fee waivers for special event promoters by making for-profit special events bear the full cost of the City resources that they utilize.	Y	Y	Y
e. Strengthen City affordable housing programs in all areas of the City.	Y	Y	Y

Austin Neighborhoods Council
City Council Candidate Questionnaire - 2018

Office/District:	**ANC**	**8**	**8**
Candidate Name:		**Rich DePalma**	**Bobby Levinski**
f. Increase funding for Travis Central Appraisal District so that it can adequately respond to commercial/industrial property appraisal protests.	Y	Y	Y
2. ***Preserve Neighborhood Character.***	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**
a. In the Land Development Code (LDC) rewrite, preserve compatibility standards, the McMansion Ordinance, setback requirements, and impervious cover limitations.	Y	Y/N	Y
b. Per page 207 of the Imagine Austin Plan, acknowledge that neighborhood plans were crafted based on the above ordinances and other provisions of the LDC. Ensure that protection of neighborhood character is a top priority of the LDC rewrite by retaining these LDC provisions and the approaches taken in the neighborhood plans.	Y	?	Y
c. Preserve neighborhood character by ensuring that the neighborhood planning process is neighborhood-driven and not a top-down exercise.	Y	Y	Y
d. Enact policies that limit the location of entertainment districts in or adjacent to residential areas, and reduce the numbers of stealth dorms and commercial short-term rentals, as well as other uses that adversely impact neighborhood character and livability.	Y	Y	Y
e. Adopt city policies and support state legislation that will preserve and adequately fund excellent neighborhood schools.	Y		Y
3. ***Manage Growth and Invest in Infrastructure and City Services.***	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**

Austin Neighborhoods Council
City Council Candidate Questionnaire - 2018

Office/District:	**ANC**	**8**	**8**
Candidate Name:		**Rich DePalma**	**Bobby Levinski**
a. Maximize use of "impact fees" so growth and developers pay for the new and improved infrastructure that is required for their projects, including transportation infrastructure.	Y	?	Y
b. Develop thoroughly vetted transportation options that address traffic congestion.	Y	Y	Y
c. Prioritize protection and acquisition of parks, open space, and other "green infrastructure."	Y	Y	Y
d. Develop and invest in flood- and fire-safety programs and area-specific emergency response plans for areas with known flood and fire risks.	Y	Y	Y
e. Repair the City's aging infrastructure.	Y	Y	Y
f. Support nuisance abatement policies to address properties with criminal and code complaints.	Y	Y	Y
g. Require development to provide for onsite water quality controls and sidewalks by eliminating "fees in lieu."	Y	?	Y
4. Prioritize Water Conservation.	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**
a. Prioritize conservation and re-use of water over developing new supplies outside Austin.	Y	Y	Y
b. Require new development to be net-zero for water use.	Y	N	Y
c. Redesign and diversify Austin Water Utility's (AWU) business model so it doesn't depend on revenue solely from selling treated water.	Y	Y	Y
d. Require AWU to develop and implement a plan for water-efficient infrastructure citywide.	Y	Y	Y
e. Require decentralization of Austin's water supply.	Y	?	Y

Austin Neighborhoods Council
City Council Candidate Questionnaire - 2018

Office/District:	**ANC**	**8**	**8**
Candidate Name:		**Rich DePalma**	**Bobby Levinski**
5. Protect the Environment.	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**
a. Preserve the SOS Ordinance and support watershed protection, preserve the Heritage Tree Ordinance and support maintenance and renewal of the urban tree canopy, and preserve the Waterfront Overlay, Lake Austin Overlay, and Hill Country Roadway ordinances.	Y	?	Y
b. Waivers and variances to the SOS, Heritage Tree, Waterfront Overlay, and Lake Austin Overlay, and Hill Country Roadway ordinances should require a super-majority vote of applicable boards, commissions and City Council for approval.	Y	Y	Y
c. Increase Austin Energy's 2020 goal for renewable energy sources above the present 35%.	Y	Y	Y
6. Change the City's Focus From Special Interests To Its Citizens.	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**
a. In the LDC rewrite and all City ordinances, protect the rights of property owners, neighborhood associations, and other interested parties to appeal City staff and board decisions on development approvals.	Y	Y	Y
b. Reprioritize the budget to increase funding for parks, libraries, and other underfunded services.	Y	Y	Y
c. Require the Mayor's "State of the City" address to be held at a city event open to all Austinites.	Y	Y	Y
d. Keep Austin Energy and the Austin Water Utility under the control of the City Council.	Y	Y	Y
e. Moderate city policies that foster runaway growth and focus instead on fostering greater income equity.	Y	Y	Y

Austin Neighborhoods Council
City Council Candidate Questionnaire - 2018

Office/District:	**ANC**	**8**	**8**
Candidate Name:		**Rich DePalma**	**Bobby Levinski**
f. Focus economic development incentives on Austin-based small and medium sized businesses.	Y	Y	Y
g. Reform City planning and public engagement processes to be citizen-driven and to increase City Council accountability to the public.	Y	Y	Y
h. Strengthen and strictly enforce the lobbyist ordinance.	Y	Y	Y
7. Other Issues.	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**
a. Do you support the City of Austin providing financial incentives and land for a private sports venture (McKalla Place)?	N	N	N
b. Do you support the ban on commercial Type 2 (non owner occupied) short term rentals in residential zoned areas?	Y	Y	Y
c. Do you approve of the Texas Legislature vote to prohibit the use of housing linkage fees on new construction in the City to help build affordable housing?	N	N	N
d. Should the City's density policies facilitate, incentivize or otherwise encourage the elimination or reduction in the number of single family homes or single family zoning in Central Austin neighborhoods?	N	?	N
e. Do you think that the 2016 Transportation Bond for $720 million has relieved and improved traffic congestion in Austin?		?	N
f. Do you support the Tenant Relocation Ordinance?	Y	Y	Y
g. Do you support the 2 citizen-backed ballot initiatives concerning an independent audit the City of Austin and CodeNext?		N	N*
h. Do you support the City Manager creating a new process for the rewrite of the land development code?		Y	Y**

I've been honored to work alongside ANC for many, many years. From my early days working for Council Member Kim (2005-2007) through my subsequent service for Council Member Laura Morrison (2008-2012) and Mayor Pro Tem Kathie Tovo (2015), and even in my current position as an attorney for the Save Our Springs Alliance, I have developed and maintained very close relationships with ANC members. The above list of policies feels a bit like a scrapbook of memories.

As one of the drafters of Page 207 of the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan, I was particularly pleased to see that referenced.

For anyone that might not know me well, I would encourage you to ask others in the room about me. At a very early age, I recognized my responsibility as a public servant to not only listen to Austin residents but to give them a voice. That has been my approach throughout my entire career, and it has led me to where I am today, running for council. I will continue to fight for policies to improve our residents' quality of life, to increase governmental transparency and to ensure that our infrastructure planning corresponds to growth management.

*I assume this space is also to provide some qualifications on the above answers, as needed.

My answer to 7(g) is "no" due to the audit. I am supportive of the CodeNEXT petition, and I was part of the 4-attorney legal team to get it on the ballot. I am not, however, supportive of the audit petition, because it constitutes an illegal appropriation of money and is redundant of our City Auditor's responsibilities.

**My answer to 7(h) is "yes" because we should give our new City Manager a chance to lay out a new process. However, our current City Council (as a body) has not done a very good job with leading the community forward with a code revision process that makes sense. Regardless of what the City Manager proposes, it will be the responsibility of the next City Council to get the process right.

Austin Neighborhoods Council
City Council Candidate Questionnaire - 2018

Office/District:	**ANC**	**9**	**9**	**9**
Candidate Name:		**Linda O'Neal**	**Danielle Skidmore**	**Kathie Tovo**
Name of your neighborhood association:		SRCC	DANA	Heritage Neighborhood Association
How long have you been a member of your neighborhood association?:			Since moving downtown 10 years ago	2010; before that, I was a member and officer in the Bouldin Creek NA.
ANC Platform	**Preferred Answer**			
1. ***Promote Affordable Neighborhoods.***	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**
a. Support legislation that ends the inequities between residential and commercial & industrial property valuations for property tax purposes, and that authorizes a fixed amount homestead exemption.	Y	Y	Y	Y
b. Increase fairness and transparency in the property tax system by adopting an ordinance requiring disclosure of real estate sales prices.	Y	Y	See Below	Y
c. Ensure that all available tools, such as a homestead property tax exemption, are being used to grant tax relief to as many Austinites as possible.	Y	Y	Y	Y
d. Enact policies that eliminate taxpayer subsidies and fee waivers for special event promoters by making for-profit special events bear the full cost of the City resources that they utilize.	Y	Y	Y	N
e. Strengthen City affordable housing programs in all areas of the City.	Y	Y	Y	Y

Austin Neighborhoods Council
City Council Candidate Questionnaire - 2018

Office/District:	ANC	9	9	9
Candidate Name:		Linda O'Neal	Danielle Skidmore	Kathie Tovo
f. Increase funding for Travis Central Appraisal District so that it can adequately respond to commercial/industrial property appraisal protests.	Y	Y	See Below	Y
2. ***Preserve Neighborhood Character.***	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**
a. In the Land Development Code (LDC) rewrite, preserve compatibility standards, the McMansion Ordinance, setback requirements, and impervious cover limitations.	Y	Y	N	Y
b. Per page 207 of the Imagine Austin Plan, acknowledge that neighborhood plans were crafted based on the above ordinances and other provisions of the LDC. Ensure that protection of neighborhood character is a top priority of the LDC rewrite by retaining these LDC provisions and the approaches taken in the neighborhood plans.	Y	Y	See Below	Y
c. Preserve neighborhood character by ensuring that the neighborhood planning process is neighborhood-driven and not a top-down exercise.	Y	M	Y	Y
d. Enact policies that limit the location of entertainment districts in or adjacent to residential areas, and reduce the numbers of stealth dorms and commercial short-term rentals, as well as other uses that adversely impact neighborhood character and livability.	Y	M	N	Y
e. Adopt city policies and support state legislation that will preserve and adequately fund excellent neighborhood schools.	Y	Y	Y	Y
3. ***Manage Growth and Invest in Infrastructure and City Services.***	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**

Austin Neighborhoods Council
City Council Candidate Questionnaire - 2018

Office/District:	**ANC**	**9**	**9**	**9**
Candidate Name:		**Linda O'Neal**	**Danielle Skidmore**	**Kathie Tovo**
a. Maximize use of "impact fees" so growth and developers pay for the new and improved infrastructure that is required for their projects, including transportation infrastructure.	Y	Y	Y	Y
b. Develop thoroughly vetted transportation options that address traffic congestion.	Y	Y	See Below	Y
c. Prioritize protection and acquisition of parks, open space, and other "green infrastructure."	Y	Y	Y	Y
d. Develop and invest in flood- and fire-safety programs and area-specific emergency response plans for areas with known flood and fire risks.	Y	Y	Y	Y
e. Repair the City's aging infrastructure.	Y	Y	Y	Y
f. Support nuisance abatement policies to address properties with criminal and code complaints.	Y	Y	Y	Y
g. Require development to provide for onsite water quality controls and sidewalks by eliminating "fees in lieu."	Y	Y	N	Y
4. Prioritize Water Conservation.	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**
a. Prioritize conservation and re-use of water over developing new supplies outside Austin.	Y	Y	Y	Y
b. Require new development to be net-zero for water use.	Y	Y	See Below	N
c. Redesign and diversify Austin Water Utility's (AWU) business model so it doesn't depend on revenue solely from selling treated water.	Y	Y	Y	Y
d. Require AWU to develop and implement a plan for water-efficient infrastructure citywide.	Y	Y	See Below	Y
e. Require decentralization of Austin's water supply.	Y	Y	See Below	Y

Austin Neighborhoods Council
City Council Candidate Questionnaire - 2018

Office/District:	**ANC**	**9**	**9**	**9**
Candidate Name:		**Linda O'Neal**	**Danielle Skidmore**	**Kathie Tovo**
5. Protect the Environment.	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**
a. Preserve the SOS Ordinance and support watershed protection, preserve the Heritage Tree Ordinance and support maintenance and renewal of the urban tree canopy, and preserve the Waterfront Overlay, Lake Austin Overlay, and Hill Country Roadway ordinances.	Y	Y	See Below	Y
b. Waivers and variances to the SOS, Heritage Tree, Waterfront Overlay, and Lake Austin Overlay, and Hill Country Roadway ordinances should require a super-majority vote of applicable boards, commissions and City Council for approval.	Y	Y	N	Y
c. Increase Austin Energy's 2020 goal for renewable energy sources above the present 35%.	Y	Y	See Below	Y
6. Change the City's Focus From Special Interests To Its Citizens.	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**
a. In the LDC rewrite and all City ordinances, protect the rights of property owners, neighborhood associations, and other interested parties to appeal City staff and board decisions on development approvals.	Y	Y	See Below	Y
b. Reprioritize the budget to increase funding for parks, libraries, and other underfunded services.	Y	M	Y	Y
c. Require the Mayor's "State of the City" address to be held at a city event open to all Austinites.	Y	Y	Y	Y
d. Keep Austin Energy and the Austin Water Utility under the control of the City Council.	Y	Y	N	Y
e. Moderate city policies that foster runaway growth and focus instead on fostering greater income equity.	Y	Y	Y	Y

Austin Neighborhoods Council
City Council Candidate Questionnaire - 2018

Office/District:	**ANC**	**9**	**9**	**9**
Candidate Name:		**Linda O'Neal**	**Danielle Skidmore**	**Kathie Tovo**
f. Focus economic development incentives on Austin-based small and medium sized businesses.	Y	Y	Y	Y
g. Reform City planning and public engagement processes to be citizen-driven and to increase City Council accountability to the public.	Y	Y	See Below	Y
h. Strengthen and strictly enforce the lobbyist ordinance.	Y	Y	Y	Y
7. Other Issues.	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**
a. Do you support the City of Austin providing financial incentives and land for a private sports venture (McKalla Place)?	N	N	N	Y
b. Do you support the ban on commercial Type 2 (non owner occupied) short term rentals in residential zoned areas?	Y	Y	N	Y
c. Do you approve of the Texas Legislature vote to prohibit the use of housing linkage fees on new construction in the City to help build affordable housing?	N	Y	N	N
d. Should the City's density policies facilitate, incentivize or otherwise encourage the elimination or reduction in the number of single family homes or single family zoning in Central Austin neighborhoods?	N	M	See Below	N
e. Do you think that the 2016 Transportation Bond for $720 million has relieved and improved traffic congestion in Austin?		N	N	Y
f. Do you support the Tenant Relocation Ordinance?	Y	?	Y	Y
g. Do you support the 2 citizen-backed ballot initiatives concerning an independent audit the City of Austin and CodeNext?		Y	N	N/Y
h. Do you support the City Manager creating a new process for the rewrite of the land development code?		M	Y	Y

Austin Neighborhoods Council
City Council Candidate Questionnaire Comments - 2018
Danielle Skidmore - District 9

1.b. The city should continue to advocate at the State for legislation in support of increased transparency with the information available for property valuations of all types, such as SB 444 and HB 379 and HB 182 proposed last legislative session.

1.f. I will work with the Travis Central Appraisal District Board of Directors to ensure that they have the resources they require to respond to appraisal protests.

2.b. I agree with the statement on page 207, "Continued protection and preservation of existing neighborhoods and the natural environment must be considered top priorities of comprehensive revisions to the City Code". The challenge we all face together is how best to preserve existing neighborhoods, which are first and foremost communities of people.

I will work diligently with all our communities to craft tools and strategies to minimize displacements, improve connectivity, quality of life and safety, while enhancing access to a diversity of housing opportunities, consistent with our city's environmental and sustainability goals.

3.b. Unfortunately, as a city grows and passes a certain threshold, congestion will remain an inevitable truth. We can, however, increase folks' ability to navigate said congestion, with alternatives to driving and enabling people to live closer to where they work and go to school to cut down on total commute times—and be more sustainable.

4.b. I support Net-Zero for water use goals, but before we can mandate this for new development, we must make further progress with our own conversation strategies and technology for our exiting infrastructure. We should, however, absolutely be incrementally and realistically working to reduce our water use as a city.

4.d I support the Water Forward Plan and believe that the AWU should absolutely continue their work with more water efficient infrastructure citywide, such as the "purple pipe" reuse network.

4.e I support the Water Forward Plan to ensure that Austin has an adequate water supply, especially during periods of prolonged drought. First and foremost, we must continue to focus of conservation and resue.

5.a. These ordinances have great value in their intent and, in general, much of their implementation. However, a blanket statement

to preserve them without thoughtfully reviewing new context based on new times, is antithetical to progressive values.

5.c. The runway is too short (between now and 2020) to reestablish new goals for a project that is already underway. Once we achieve (or hopefully not fail) said goals, we can always opt to increase them accordingl, and have already done so with the 2027 plan

6.a. I believe in appeals processes for city projects, in the case of a violation of the code. I don't believe, however, that appeals processes should be used to continually stall decisions with which certain residents may not agree. Human opinion varies greatly, a common good must be established—and cities must be allowed to operate in a way to realize this common good.

6.g. These processes should involve citizen input, but should be driven by city staff, elected officials, and board and commission members with the expertise and democratically voted approval to best serve the needs of their constituents.

7.d. Destroy existing homes? No! Provide people more tools to stay in their homes, like ADUs for supplemental rental income. Reform zoning restrictions? Yes! Provide future opportunities for more people as our population continues to grow. This does mean allowing a diversity of housing types beyond those allowed under current single-family zoning. Housing such as ADUs, duplexes, triplexes ("Missing Middle") can, and should coexist within our neighborhoods.

Austin Neighborhoods Council
City Council Candidate Questionnaire Comments - 2018
Kathie Tovo - District 9

1a. Support legislation that ends the inequities between residential and commercial & industrial property valuations for property tax purposes, and that authorizes a fixed amount homestead exemption. In addition to introducing the measure that created the first-ever city homestead exemption which was a fixed amount of $5,000 per property, I have sponsored and supported measures aimed at advocating at the state level for changes that would help strike a better balance between residential and commercial property valuations.

1b. Increase fairness and transparency in the property tax system by adopting an ordinance requiring disclosure of real estate sales prices. I fully support requiring disclosure of real estate prices. Currently, state law appears to prevent a local ordinance; I have sponsored Council measures to advocate for required disclosure. In addition, I sponsored resolutions directing the City Manager to file a challenge petition against the Travis Central Appraisal District, and I believe the conversations which have resulted from that action helped prompt changes.

1d. Enact policies that eliminate taxpayer subsidies and fee waivers for special event promoters by making for-profit special events bear the full cost of the City resources that they utilize. I believe that event services costs should generally be covered by the groups running those events. I support and have led on analyzing event services costs in order to identify sustainable funding sources. However, I do believe there are instances in which fee waivers are appropriate, such as for events that generate significant revenue for the city.

1e. Strengthen City affordable housing programs in all areas of the City. I have introduced multiple resolutions designed to increase production of new affordable housing and the preservation of existing, naturally occurring affordable housing. I am eager to continue leading on anti-displacement strategies, such as the "right-to-return" and tenants' right to purchase programs, as well as finally taking action on developing affordable housing on city-owned tracts such as the Health South building.

1f. Increase funding for Travis Central Appraisal District so that it can adequately respond to commercial/industrial property appraisal protests. I voted for just such an increase, and I believe the request came in direct response to the challenge petition action I introduced and the resulting community and Council conversations.

3a. Maximize use of "impact fees" so growth and developers pay for the new and improved infrastructure that is required for their projects, including transportation infrastructure. I sponsored the resolution for full cost recovery for Austin Energy fees (at the

suggestion of former Electric Utility Commissioner Shudde Fath), which has saved the utility millions of dollars; I advocated for and voted to support passage of full water impact fees; and I advocated for the budget amendment that increased development fees to 100% full cost recovery at least one year ahead of staff recommendation. Likewise, I led the Council to implement the ammonia surcharge immediately – and approximately six months ahead of staff recommendation – so that the Austin Water Utility and its customers would stop bearing the costs of removing ammonia from the wastewater generated by Samsung. These decisions have saved millions of dollars.

4b. Require new development to be net-zero for water use. Though I believe more education and resources are needed before considering implementing a requirement that all new development be net-zero for water use, I absolutely support moving toward the goal of having developments integrate water-saving measures into their design.

6d. Keep Austin Energy and the Austin Water Utility under the control of the City Council. When a serious proposal was introduced to turn Austin Energy over to an independent board, I helped lead the opposition—and I will do so again as necessary. Maintaining our municipally owned utility as governed by the City Council ensures that our practices and energy sources will, among other values, reflect Austin's priority for a clean energy future.

6f. Focus economic development incentives on Austin-based small and medium sized businesses. I believe that our incentive programs should largely focus on small- and medium-sized local businesses. I also believe that there may be cases in which incentives for other companies may be appropriate if it can be fully demonstrated that using these incentives would provide extraordinary community benefits in return.

7a. Do you support the City of Austin providing financial incentives and land for a private sports venture (McKalla Place)? While there may be disagreement over how to approach soccer in Austin, I do not believe there should be any disagreement over whether I have been a strong advocate for our communities. My record is clear: I have consistently supported policies that help maintain our quality of life and keep Austin a family-friendly city. My support for soccer comes from those very same values – I believe that having a professional soccer team here in Austin would provide a very real community benefit for many families across the city and enhance their quality of life. At the same time, my support was not open-ended or unconditional. I was vocal in expressing concerns about the initial proposals presented to Council because they included a number of provisions I opposed (including significant costs to the city) and omitted a number of provisions I thought needed to be included.vOver the course of the debate, I worked hard

to address my concerns and protect the city's interests – and in the end we had an agreement that included rent payments, affordable housing, labor agreements, green building, mobility investments, programs and benefits for youth throughout the community, and it required infrastructure and operations costs be borne by the team. The final proposal was one that I supported, and I believe that my values, work, and commitment have helped significantly improve the agreement. These are the same qualities I have brought to my advocacy at the City, from my time as the Vice President of the Austin Neighborhoods Council to my time as a Council Member – and I would respectfully ask for your endorsement so I can continue speaking out for our communities going forward.

7b. Do you support the ban on commercial Type 2 (non-owner-occupied) short term rentals in residential zoned areas? Yes, and I led this effort.

7e. Do you think that the 2016 Transportation Bond for $720 million has relieved and improved traffic congestion in Austin? There are projects planned for the 2016 mobility bond that are estimated to improve traffic congestion in Austin relative to what would have occurred without the improvements. Many of the projects in the bond, however – including many of those that have been implemented to date – focus on improving quality of life and safety for our families, including investments in new sidewalks, safe routes to schools projects, and urban trails, among others.

7g. Do you support the 2 citizen-backed ballot initiatives concerning an independent audit the City of Austin and CodeNext? I support the CodeNEXT ballot initiative and was among the Council minority who voted to put it on the ballot after the petition was presented to the City of Austin and declared valid. I am not supporting the audit initiative due to concerns about the cost, the duplicative nature of the work given the City Auditor's role and that of our external auditors, and the potential implications for continuing to provide city services.

Austin Neighborhoods Council
City Council Candidate Questionnaire - 2018

Office/District:	ANC	Mayor	Mayor	Mayor	Mayor	Mayor
Candidate Name:		**Steve Adler**	**Travis Duncan**	**Laura Morrison**	**Todd Phelps**	**Alexander Strenger**
Name of your neighborhood association:		Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association	Westbranch Neighborhood	Rosedale Neighborhood Association		Bluff Springs Valley Neighborhood Association
How long have you been a member of your neighborhood association?:		3 years	n/a	Relatively new member since move back here; previously ~18 year member of OWANA		Just moved into the neighborhood so I have yet to become a member.
ANC Platform	**Preferred Answer**					
1. ***Promote Affordable Neighborhoods.***	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**
a. Support legislation that ends the inequities between residential and commercial & industrial property valuations for property tax purposes, and that authorizes a fixed amount homestead exemption.	Y	Y	Y	Y	N*	Y
b. Increase fairness and transparency in the property tax system by adopting an ordinance requiring disclosure of real estate sales prices.	Y	Y	Y	Y	N*	Y
c. Ensure that all available tools, such as a homestead property tax exemption, are being used to grant tax relief to as many Austinites as possible.	Y	Y	Y	N*	Y*	Y
d. Enact policies that eliminate taxpayer subsidies and fee waivers for special event promoters by making for-profit special events bear the full cost of the City resources that they utilize.	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
e. Strengthen City affordable housing programs in all areas of the City.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Austin Neighborhoods Council
City Council Candidate Questionnaire - 2018

Office/District:	ANC	Mayor	Mayor	Mayor	Mayor	Mayor
Candidate Name:		Steve Adler	Travis Duncan	Laura Morrison	Todd Phelps	Alexander Strenger
f. Increase funding for Travis Central Appraisal District so that it can adequately respond to commercial/industrial property appraisal protests.	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
2. ***Preserve Neighborhood Character.***	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**
a. In the Land Development Code (LDC) rewrite, preserve compatibility standards, the McMansion Ordinance, setback requirements, and impervious cover limitations.	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y
b. Per page 207 of the Imagine Austin Plan, acknowledge that neighborhood plans were crafted based on the above ordinances and other provisions of the LDC. Ensure that protection of neighborhood character is a top priority of the LDC rewrite by retaining these LDC provisions and the approaches taken in the neighborhood plans.	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
c. Preserve neighborhood character by ensuring that the neighborhood planning process is neighborhood-driven and not a top-down exercise.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
d. Enact policies that limit the location of entertainment districts in or adjacent to residential areas, and reduce the numbers of stealth dorms and commercial short-term rentals, as well as other uses that adversely impact neighborhood character and livability.	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
e. Adopt city policies and support state legislation that will preserve and adequately fund excellent neighborhood schools.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
3. ***Manage Growth and Invest in Infrastructure and City Services.***	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y**

Austin Neighborhoods Council
City Council Candidate Questionnaire - 2018

Office/District:	ANC	Mayor	Mayor	Mayor	Mayor	Mayor
Candidate Name:		Steve Adler	Travis Duncan	Laura Morrison	Todd Phelps	Alexander Strenger
a. Maximize use of "impact fees" so growth and developers pay for the new and improved infrastructure that is required for their projects, including transportation infrastructure.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y*	Y
b. Develop thoroughly vetted transportation options that address traffic congestion.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
c. Prioritize protection and acquisition of parks, open space, and other "green infrastructure."	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
d. Develop and invest in flood- and fire-safety programs and area-specific emergency response plans for areas with known flood and fire risks.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
e. Repair the City's aging infrastructure.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
f. Support nuisance abatement policies to address properties with criminal and code complaints.	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
g. Require development to provide for onsite water quality controls and sidewalks by eliminating "fees in lieu."	Y	Y	Y	Y*	Y	Y
4. Prioritize Water Conservation.	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**
a. Prioritize conservation and re-use of water over developing new supplies outside Austin.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
b. Require new development to be net-zero for water use.	Y	N	Y	Y	N*	
c. Redesign and diversify Austin Water Utility's (AWU) business model so it doesn't depend on revenue solely from selling treated water.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
d. Require AWU to develop and implement a plan for water-efficient infrastructure citywide.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
e. Require decentralization of Austin's water supply.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Austin Neighborhoods Council
City Council Candidate Questionnaire - 2018

Office/District:	ANC	Mayor	Mayor	Mayor	Mayor	Mayor
Candidate Name:		Steve Adler	Travis Duncan	Laura Morrison	Todd Phelps	Alexander Strenger
5. Protect the Environment.	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**
a. Preserve the SOS Ordinance and support watershed protection, preserve the Heritage Tree Ordinance and support maintenance and renewal of the urban tree canopy, and preserve the Waterfront Overlay, Lake Austin Overlay, and Hill Country Roadway ordinances.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
b. Waivers and variances to the SOS, Heritage Tree, Waterfront Overlay, and Lake Austin Overlay, and Hill Country Roadway ordinances should require a super-majority vote of applicable boards, commissions and City Council for approval.	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	
c. Increase Austin Energy's 2020 goal for renewable energy sources above the present 35%.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
6. Change the City's Focus From Special Interests To Its Citizens.	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**
a. In the LDC rewrite and all City ordinances, protect the rights of property owners, neighborhood associations, and other interested parties to appeal City staff and board decisions on development approvals.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
b. Reprioritize the budget to increase funding for parks, libraries, and other underfunded services.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
c. Require the Mayor's "State of the City" address to be held at a city event open to all Austinites.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
d. Keep Austin Energy and the Austin Water Utility under the control of the City Council.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
e. Moderate city policies that foster runaway growth and focus instead on fostering greater income equity.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Austin Neighborhoods Council
City Council Candidate Questionnaire - 2018

Office/District:	ANC	Mayor	Mayor	Mayor	Mayor	Mayor
Candidate Name:		Steve Adler	Travis Duncan	Laura Morrison	Todd Phelps	Alexander Strenger
f. Focus economic development incentives on Austin-based small and medium sized businesses.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y*	Y
g. Reform City planning and public engagement processes to be citizen-driven and to increase City Council accountability to the public.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
h. Strengthen and strictly enforce the lobbyist ordinance.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
7. Other Issues.	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**	**Y or N**
a. Do you support the City of Austin providing financial incentives and land for a private sports venture (McKalla Place)?	N	Y	N	N	N	N
b. Do you support the ban on commercial Type 2 (non owner occupied) short term rentals in residential zoned areas?	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
c. Do you approve of the Texas Legislature vote to prohibit the use of housing linkage fees on new construction in the City to help build affordable housing?	N	N	N	N	N	Y
d. Should the City's density policies facilitate, incentivize or otherwise encourage the elimination or reduction in the number of single family homes or single family zoning in Central Austin neighborhoods?	N	N	Y	N	N	N
e. Do you think that the 2016 Transportation Bond for $720 million has relieved and improved traffic congestion in Austin?		Y	N	N	N	N
f. Do you support the Tenant Relocation Ordinance?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
g. Do you support the 2 citizen-backed ballot initiatives concerning an independent audit the City of Austin and CodeNext?		N	Y	Y:CodeNext N:Audit	Y	Y
h. Do you support the City Manager creating a new process for the rewrite of the land development code?		Y	Y	N*	Y	Y

Austin Neighborhoods Council

City Council Candidate Questionnaire Comments - 2018

Travis Duncan - Mayor

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as the mayor of Austin. I look forward to meeting you all and answering more detailed questions related to this questionnaire, as well as any other relevant or inspiring topic.

Austin Neighborhoods Council

City Council Candidate Questionnaire Comments - 2018

Laura Morrison - Mayor

1c: I support a flat or capped general homestead exemption due to the inequitable nature of the impacts of a general percentage as is the case now; would not support an increase of current exemption beyond 10%.

3g: Fees-in-lieu should be rarely allowed and likely best addressed through a specific variance process.

7h: We definitely need a new process that is community-driven and includes testing and early discussion of alternatives as originally required. However, the City Manager should not lead the effort to develop the new process since staff was integrally part of the process problems with CodeNext. The City Auditor should report on how CodeNext got so off track, and there should be strong community involvement in developing the new process.

Austin Neighborhoods Council
City Council Candidate Questionnaire Comments - 2018
Todd Phelps - Mayor

1a NO. The city has the homestead exemption which is the tool that the state gave them to give preferential treatment to home owners . Instead of granting a full 20 percent Adler over the last four years has slowly moved to only to 10%.
Homestead residential properties have an 10% appraisal cap each year. Commercial does not. Residential rentals fall under commercial and do not have a cap. (There are more renters in Austin than homeowners these people are hurt by the passed through costs.)

1b NO. In business transactions there often tangible and intangible items included in the sale that should be protected. My hesitation to vote yes on this is that when the state enacts this disclosure, often what follows is that the state imposes a sales tax on real estate transactions. I would oppose a sales tax in that it would greatly reduce affordability.

States that have this disclosure often adopt sales tax on the sale of real estate. (This increases the price of homes and businesses.)

1c - YES. Most major cities in Texas and Travis County, and Central Health offer 20% Homestead exemptions. (Adler promised 20% when he ran, and four years later we are only at 10%)

1f - The TCAD has had increases in the past several years. And should be always be adequately funded.

3a - Impact fees need to be examined to ensure fair assessments.

4b. This needs to be studied and weighed for affordability

6f. - YES. Incentives for local small businesses rather than Adler's Stadium project which will have little economic impact. Small businesses generate the most jobs for our economy.

Austin Neighborhoods Council

City Council Candidate Questionnaire Comments - 2018

Alexander Strenger - Mayor

We as a City need to do a much better job in terms of how we allocate our recourses. The "Trumpian" business policies enacted by the current administration are causing Austin to rapidly descend into unaffordability with traffic concerns reaching epidemic levels. Furthermore, our affordability concerns are causing the City of Austin to lose its character and many of our great restaurants and music venues are shutting down. We need to fix this immediately and that is why we need a comprehensive land code that the people can have a direct say in, along expanding our bus routes, creating a rail system that adequately serves the entire City of Austin (along with the surrounding areas), making sure that EVERYBODY pays their share of property taxes, and raising the fee in leui for developers to $4/sq foot so that the City can cover its affordable housing costs.