

# 2012 Austin City Council Multi-Club Endorsement Forum Questionnaire

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Office Sought</u>	<u>Page #</u>
<b>Mayor</b>	
Clay Dafoe	2
Lee Leffingwell*	6
Brigid Shea	9
<b>Place 2</b>	
Mike Martinez*	12
Laura Pressley	15
<b>Place 5</b>	
Tina Cannon	18
John Duffy	21
John “Bo” Prudente	24
Bill Spelman*	27
 <i>NB: Dominic Chavez and David Conley declined to return questionnaires. Five efforts to contact John Rubine were unsuccessful.</i>	
<b>Place 6</b>	
Sheryl Cole*	31
Shaun Ireland	34

\* denotes incumbent

Text was formatted for uniform size, font, spacing, and margins. Voter history was verified in the Texas VAN. Answers that exceeded the word limit were truncated. Otherwise, all responses are as-is from candidates' submissions.

## PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Austin Environmental Democrats  
Capital Area Asian American Democrats  
Capital Area Progressive Democrats  
Capital City Young Democrats  
Circle C Area Democrats  
Liberal Austin Democrats  
St. Edwards Democrats  
Stonewall Democrats

**Clay Dafoe – Candidate for Mayor**

**Section I: Political Participation**

**Do you self-identify as a Democrat? Why? (250 word limit)**

I self-identify as an independent but share many beliefs in common with Democrats. Like Democrats, I believe that government should be used as a safeguard for the individual liberties of all people and never as an instrument to aggrandize power in the hands of a wealthy few. In addition, I share the goal of helping the less fortunate in our society by eliminating needless waste in city government to ensure our citizens are not excluded from economic opportunity because of administrative largess. Furthermore, I want to preserve our sacred Constitutional rights to gather, to be free from unlawful searches and seizures and to receive adequate due process of law. I am a believer in pursuing justice and will have the courage to inquire into instances where our citizens' rights are violated by city policies or the conduct of city employed officers. These stances echo the sentiment of Democrats who are yearning for candidates to seriously address and tackle these hot button issues. As a voice of reason for fiscal responsibility, accessible government and social equity, my message appeals to Democrats and individuals from all political backgrounds.

**2. Voting History.**

**a.) Please mark the box for each election you have voted in. Note: voter history will be cross-checked with public voting records.**

	2011	2010	2009	2008	2006	2005	2004
Primary Election (indicate D or R)	n/a		n/a	R		n/a	D
Primary Run-off (indicate D or R)	n/a		n/a			n/a	n/a
Austin Municipal Election	Yes			Yes			n/a
Nov. General Election	Yes			Yes			Yes

**If you were voting in a county other than Travis, please tell us where and in what years.**

Dallas County – 2004 Primary Election and 2004 General Election

**b.) What was the first Presidential election you voted in? Who did you vote for, and why? (200 word limit)**

In 2004, I voted for John Kerry in my first presidential election. I supported Kerry because I saw the dangerous direction which President George W. Bush was taking our country by pursuing unconstitutional wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and by leading the attack on our civil liberties through the USA Patriot Act. John Kerry vowed to take troops out of Iraq within six months of taking office and I admired his candid way of addressing the failed policies that were making America less safe and less free. By voting for Kerry I saw the possibility of ending the abuses in government that were shaking the foundations of our entire system of law and justice. John Kerry was not the perfect candidate and I certainly disagreed with him on several policies but his appeal as an anti-war, pro civil libertarian is what won my vote.

**3. Donor History. Please describe your donation history over the last 6 years to candidates, political parties, and non-profit organizations. If you have volunteered for candidates or causes, please detail that here as well. Lists are acceptable. (200 word limit)**

I do not often donate to political candidates or parties but have donated to two leading representatives in government, Ron Paul and Rand Paul. Because of their staunch anti-war positions and their willingness to address the social inequity created by our debt based, Federal Reserve run monetary system I donated to their respective campaigns. In 2008, I volunteered for Ron Paul and helped educate fellow University of Texas students about his unwavering support of the U.S. Constitution. In addition, I have donated to the non-profit political organization Texans for Accountable Government (TAG) with whom I am a member. I have also given donations to Amnesty International and Environment Texas in the past. I volunteer by participating in political action with TAG, often at the City Council level of government. Volunteering to serve as a citizen watchdog, I have extensively participated in City Council meetings and given informed testimony on issues dealing with corporate subsidies, police accountability, wasteful government spending and the preservation of Constitutional rights.

## **Section II: Issues**

### **1. Growth (courtesy of Capital City Young Democrats) (250 word limit total)**

#### **a.) Is Austin's population increasing?**

Austin is experiencing a population increase and attracting new residents because of our overall strong economy and vibrant cultural scene.

#### **b.) What, in your mind, is the single most important thing for the City Council to do in order to manage Austin's population growth?**

How Austin currently manages growth through the use of incentive packages hurts our citizens by granting exclusive privileges to large corporations that are mostly never available to individuals or small businesses. The most important thing the City Council can do to responsibly manage our growth is to adopt a hands-off approach to economic development. This objective can be accomplished by ending corporate subsidies and tax rebates that unfairly direct the economy. Let us empower grassroots business to achieve success without the unfair influence of our city picking economic winners and losers.

#### **c.) Do you support increased density in Central Austin, namely the area bounded by 2222 to the north, Oltorf to the south, I-35 to the east, and MoPac to the west?**

The Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan proposes a regimen of massive corporate subsidy grants to developers for density projects with the assumption it will stimulate the economy and promote economic growth. I believe the incentive structure will only unfairly use tax dollars to finance special interest development that will cause increased gentrification and drive up the cost of living for all Austinites. Thus, I do not support efforts to use the City Council's power to create increased density in Central Austin.

#### **d.) If yes to part c, what tools will you use to increase density? If no, why not?**

I do not believe we need incentive tools to create density development. These policies force long term residents out of the city's core and override our citizens' desire for natural growth instead of accelerated, managed costly projects.

### **2. Power (courtesy of Austin Environmental Democrats) (250 word limit total)**

#### **a.) Do you support the movement to generate Austin's power from 100% coal-free sources?**

I support the general idea of weaning Austin off of coal sources of energy. However, because of our strained finances in Austin Energy and the threatening rate increases, we must be certain investing in more forms of renewable energy will not result in a new rate increase or new base fees. Let us move off coal but do so in a gradual and responsible manner.

**b.) What is the best way to handle the City's stake in the Fayette Coal Plant? Pick one, explain your answer.**

- 1. Do nothing.**
- 2. Sell the plant.**
- 3. Retain ownership; do not operate plant.**
- 4. Other. (Please explain.)**

At this time, the Fayette Plant provides 600 MW of power, a significant portion of Austin Energy's generated supply. Instead of pushing for immediate and complete divestment, for now I propose we investigate the feasibility of gradually reducing our ownership stake in Fayette. That way we are sure our actions to invest in renewable energy as opposed to coal are economically feasible and do not further increase rates on our residents.

**3. Diversity (courtesy of Capital Area Asian American Democrats) (250 word limit)**

**Asian-Americans are the fastest growing ethnic group in Austin's population by percentage. Will you support the adoption of a comprehensive language access policy for all City of Austin departments and services, along the lines of the ordinance adopted in San Francisco?**

The increasing ethnic diversity of Austin as witnessed by our booming Asian-American population is a terrific sign that Austin is becoming an internationally recognized city where languages other than English thrive. I believe it is important to accommodate the needs of individuals who do not speak English and if we can do more to hire staff who speak Asian languages in different departments it would be beneficial. However, I believe that a comprehensive language access policy in all departments would put too great of a burden on our already stretched budget. I cannot commit to supporting such a proposal at this time, but I would work with the City Manager's office to target hiring more bilingual staff.

**4. Housing (courtesy of Capital Area Progressive Democrats) (250 word limit total)**

**a.) What percentage of money in the upcoming 2012 City bond package should be dedicated to affordable housing, including PSH? Feel free to specify answers for a \$200M, \$300M, and \$400M bond, as the exact amount is yet to be determined.**

It is highly unlikely I will support a November bond; bonds are loans that must be paid back with interest in the future. I do not support any percentage of funding for new affordable housing initiatives including PSH because our government is going bankrupt and we simply cannot afford to increase our funding obligations for affordable housing.

**b.) In your opinion, what should be the City Council's commitment to providing affordable housing, and PSH in particular?**

Our City should gradually reduce our commitment to affordable housing including permanent supportive housing. If we are able to end corporate welfare and excessive amounts of funds spent for dubious city projects like the Waller Creek Tunnel and Water Treatment Plant Four, more money will be available in the private sector to foster true economic growth and allow individuals currently in affordable housing to have access to improved job opportunities. Growing the real economy by cutting government waste and unfair incentive packages will keep Austin affordable.

**5. SMD's (courtesy of CAAAD and CAPD)**

**Do you support an all at-large system, a hybrid system, or an all-district system plus an at-large mayor? Please explain. (250 word limit)**

I favor an all-district 10-1 system plus an at-large mayor. I believe that breaking down constituencies into smaller units will help provide more effective and responsive representation. By removing at-large elections, we can take the big money influence out of local elections and return power to neighborhoods and local segments of our community. Along with an all-district system, it is imperative that boundary lines are drawn

by a citizens' redistricting commission. This mechanism will serve as a check against the possibility of gerrymandered districts and will work to respect the political cohesion of historically aligned areas of the city.

**6. Election Dates (*courtesy of St. Ed's Democrats*) (250 word limit total)**

**a.) Yes or no: do you support putting a charter amendment on the November 2012 ballot to move Austin's municipal elections from May to November?**

Yes, I support putting a charter amendment on the November 2012 ballot to move municipal elections from May to November. There has been great speculation over this measure's influence on increasing voter turnout. I believe that to truly get more people involved in city elections we must open up accessibility to City Council decision making to have our people actually feel they have a voice rather than just changing the election date. However, I do realize there is support out there for moving elections. I believe the voters of Austin should make this decision and I would support putting it on the ballot so they could do so.

**b.) Do you personally support moving the Austin municipal elections from May to November? Why or why not?**

I do not personally support moving municipal elections to November. I believe there is a good reason why municipal elections are held in May. Individuals and families only have a finite amount of time to devote to discussing and analyzing politics. In November, people are saturated with political advertising for statewide and federal offices that absorb attention and are driven by massive funding in comparison with local candidates. Having May elections helps to focus our community's attention on local politics, the realm in which citizens can actually have the most impact on influencing policy. Personally, I believe setting aside May exclusively for municipal elections allows for a greater concentrated focus on local races and fosters a more informed, involved voting populace.

**Lee Leffingwell – Candidate for Mayor**

**Section I: Political Participation**

**1. Do you self-identify as a Democrat? Why? (250 word limit)**

I have been a Democrat and a union member my entire life. I hold the values of our party in my heart and those same values shape my work as Austin Mayor. The Democratic Party has led on so many issues that are core to my beliefs, including the defense of women’s health, workers rights, affordable healthcare, diversity, a clean energy future and equality for all.

**2. Voting History.**

**Please mark the box for each election you have voted in. Note: voter history will be cross-checked with public voting records.**

	2011	2010	2009	2008	2006	2005	2004
Primary Election (indicate D or R)	n/a	D	n/a	D	D	n/a	D
Primary Run-off (indicate D or R)	n/a	D	n/a	D		n/a	n/a
Austin Municipal Election	X	n/a	X	X	X	X	n/a
Nov. General Election	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

**b.) What was the first Presidential election you voted in? Who did you vote for, and why? (200 word limit)**

In 1960, I voted for John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson. I have voted the Democratic ticket for President every four years ever since.

**3. Donor History. Please describe your donation history over the last 6 years to candidates, political parties, and non-profit organizations. If you have volunteered for candidates or causes, please detail that here as well. Lists are acceptable. (200 word limit)**

I am a sustaining donor to the Travis County Democratic Party and I have contributed to the Texas Democratic Party as well. I’ve served on host committees for many fundraisers the party has held. I believe all politics is local and that is why am proud of my continued support of the TCDP. I decided to run for mayor following my time volunteering for the coordinated campaign during the 2008 election and though the years I have worked to help elect so many Democrats I could never list them all in 200 words.

**Section II: Issues**

**1. Growth (courtesy of Capital City Young Democrats) (250 word limit total)**

**a.) Is Austin’s population increasing?**

Yes.

**b.) What, in your mind, is the single most important thing for the City Council to do in order to manage Austin’s population growth?**

Austin is an incredible place to live, and that fact draws people to our town. We must plan for growth intelligently while making sure that Austin is a sustainable and affordable city at the same time. We must upgrade our public transportation system and use all of our tools necessary to make sure we are densifying the urban core.

**c.) Do you support increased density in Central Austin, namely the area bounded by 2222 to the north, Oltorf to the south, I-35 to the east, and MoPac to the west?**

Yes.

**d.) If yes to part c, what tools will you use to increase density? If no, why not?**

We have already adjusted our city code to incentivize responsible dense developments in the urban core. We must continue to support greater density and infill in central neighborhoods, which relieves suburban sprawl and makes Austin a more sustainable community.

**2. Power (courtesy of Austin Environmental Democrats) (250 word limit total)**

**a.) Do you support the movement to generate Austin's power from 100% coal-free sources?**

Yes.

**b.) What is the best way to handle the City's stake in the Fayette Coal Plant? Pick one, explain your answer.**

- 1. Do nothing.**
- 2. Sell the plant.**
- 3. Retain ownership; do not operate plant.**
- 4. Other. (Please explain.)**

I am proud of my pledge to move Austin beyond coal, and I favor divesting Austin's ownership in the Fayette coal plant and reinvesting our resources into Austin's clean energy future. If Austin moves beyond coal, we'll be the biggest city in the country to divest from a municipally owned coal plant. This will help establish our city as the Clean Energy Capital of the World and create good local green jobs.

Continuing to own the Fayette Power Plant will only continue to cost us in the long run. The cost of operating traditional fossil fuel plants are increasing, along with the cost to our public health. My wife is a nurse, and she sees how people are negatively impacted by pollution directly, and on a daily basis.

Our stake in the Fayette coal plant could be worth hundreds of millions of dollars, and if it's feasible, we should seize this opportunity. In addition to the environmental benefits of moving towards clean energy, I've heard from many constituents who are worried about the rising costs of energy in general, and I believe reinvesting our resources in energy efficiency, renewable sources and more will keep Austin affordable. Our churches, low-income households and senior citizens deserve energy efficiency rebates to help keep their energy costs affordable. I don't believe mothballing the plant is the most responsible thing to do because we have a responsibility to protect our ratepayers. As I've said all through our energy generation planning process, affordability is just as much of a priority as moving to a clean energy future; they must go hand in hand.

**3. Diversity (courtesy of Capital Area Asian American Democrats) (250 word limit)**

**Asian-Americans are the fastest growing ethnic group in Austin's population by percentage. Will you support the adoption of a comprehensive language access policy for all City of Austin departments and services, along the lines of the ordinance adopted in San Francisco?**

Yes. I am already on record as supporting this and believe this policy should have already been adopted.

**4. Housing (courtesy of Capital Area Progressive Democrats) (250 word limit total)**

**a.) What percentage of money in the upcoming 2012 City bond package should be dedicated to affordable housing, including PSH? Feel free to specify answers for a \$200M, \$300M, and \$400M bond, as the exact amount is yet to be determined.**

**b.) In your opinion, what should be the City Council's commitment to providing affordable housing, and PSH in particular?**

We need to make serious investments in affordable housing, including Permanent Supportive Housing, in the 2012 bond initiative. What percentage of the total bond amount is comprised of affordable housing specific bonds should not be determined until all projects have been evaluated and the public input process has been completed. I fought for affordable housing in the last successful bond effort and I support a robust bond amount for affordable housing this time as well. In terms of PSH, we must do a better job supporting both PSH tenants and neighborhoods.

**5. SMD's (courtesy of CAAAD and CAPD)**

**Do you support an all at-large system, a hybrid system, or an all-district system plus an at-large mayor? Please explain. (250 word limit)**

I have long been a supporter of geographical representation and led the charge to create the current Charter Review Committee. I have heard from many people in favor of a several different plans (the charter revision committee was clearly divided on this issue) and I am waiting to make a final decision after the process has run its course. I have had many supporters advocate for a hybrid system combining at-large and single member districts and a 10 -1 plan. I am in favor of whatever SMD plan has the best chance of passing voter approval this November and given that this issue has failed to pass voter approval 6 times, I want to make sure every option is considered before I make a final decision. I am strongly in favor of some form of single member districts and have been for many years.

**6. Election Dates (courtesy of St. Ed's Democrats) (250 word limit total)**

**a.) Yes or no: do you support putting a charter amendment on the November 2012 ballot to move Austin's municipal elections from May to November?**

Yes.

**b.) Do you personally support moving the Austin municipal elections from May to November? Why or why not?**

Yes. I believe this will greatly increase vote participation in our city elections. I was very disappointed that the majority of my colleagues on Council disagreed when we had the opportunity to vote on this late last year. The November 2012 election will likely have the largest voter turnout in history, and I think we missed a huge opportunity to put Council members on that ballot and help expose the general public to City issues. Higher turnout is always better.

**Brigid Shea – Candidate for Mayor**

**Section I: Political Participation**

**1. Do you self-identify as a Democrat? Why? (250 word limit)**

Yes. I view the Democratic Party as more fair and more compassionate, siding with the average person rather than with corporations and the very wealthy. That is why I would not have forced Austin water customers to pick up the whole bill for the \$13 million cost of water and sewer lines to F1. It is not fair to shift the cost of development for billionaires onto existing residents. It is also why I would not have given a \$4.3 million fee waiver to the Marriott, when the city told citizens that same year they did not have enough money to keep all the community pools open and did not have enough money for the Trail of Lights. I have always promoted Democratic principles and supported/voted for Democratic candidates. I believe my commitments to democratic principles are reflected in my consumer and environmental advocacy and my campaign finance reform efforts during my term on council , as well as my initiatives on affordability and ethics during this race. I have also dedicated the majority of my career to non-profit and advocacy work and volunteer extensively, including delivering Meals on Wheels for the past 6 years.

**2. Voting History.**

**a.) Please mark the box for each election you have voted in. Note: voter history will be cross-checked with public voting records.**

	2011	2010	2009	2008	2006	2005	2004
Primary Election (indicate D or R)	n/a	D	n/a	D	D	n/a	D
Primary Run-off (indicate D or R)	n/a	D	n/a	D		n/a	n/a
Austin Municipal Election	x	n/a	x	x	n/a	x	n/a
Nov. General Election	x	x		x	x	x	x

**b.) What was the first Presidential election you voted in? Who did you vote for, and why? (200 word limit)**

It was 1976 and I voted for Jimmy Carter. I believed he was a true reformer and an honest person and my judgement has been verified by all his actions since. I was also disgusted with Ford’s pardon of Nixon, who I felt should have gone to prison for his criminal abuse of power.

**3. Donor History. Please describe your donation history over the last 6 years to candidates, political parties, and non-profit organizations. If you have volunteered for candidates or causes, please detail that here as well. Lists are acceptable. (200 word limit)**

I have consistently donated to and/or volunteered on campaigns for numerous state, local and presidential candidates. I worked extremely hard in 2006 to elect Sarah Eckhardt (partly because the opponent, a Democratic incumbent had refused to vote to pursue a lawsuit over blatantly unfair Republican redistricting.) I contributed numerous times to the Obama campaign and volunteered a great deal, working my neighborhood, and the precinct caucus, as well as phoning, etc. for the general. I have contributed to many local candidates, including Ron Davis, Bill Spelman, Laura Morrison, Kathy Tovo and frankly more than I can remember.

**Section II: Issues**

**1. Growth (courtesy of Capital City Young Democrats) (250 word limit total)**

**a.) Is Austin’s population increasing?**

Yes.

**b.) What, in your mind, is the single most important thing for the City Council to do in order to manage Austin's population growth?**

Have an effective comprehensive planning process, which is not happening now.

**c.) Do you support increased density in Central Austin, namely the area bounded by 2222 to the north, Oltorf to the south, I-35 to the east, and MoPac to the west?**

Yes, within the context of adopted neighborhood plans and an effective comprehensive planning process, and it must be paired with vastly improved transit operations and transportation options so as to reduce congestion and dependence on automobiles.

**d.) If yes to part c, what tools will you use to increase density? If no, why not?**

(see my answer to c)

**2. Power (courtesy of Austin Environmental Democrats) (250 word limit total)**

**a.) Do you support the movement to generate Austin's power from 100% coal-free sources?**

Yes.

**b.) What is the best way to handle the City's stake in the Fayette Coal Plant? Pick one, explain your answer.**

- 1. Do nothing.**
- 2. Sell the plant.**
- 3. Retain ownership; do not operate plant.**
- 4. Other. (Please explain.)**

I support pursuing real efforts for Austin to go coal-free, and it must be done carefully so as to avoid rate shock. A serious issue is that current ERCOT rules preclude Austin Energy from not operating the plant if its operation is required to meet system demands. If elected, I would work to take back from ERCOT control over our generating facilities. One thing Austin could do to reduce reliance on Fayette (and other coal-fired generation around the state) is to set an example with even more energy efficiency, demand reduction and renewables. Unfortunately city budgets over the last 3 years have reduced conservation rebates and incentives by 16% and local solar incentives by 55%. If elected, I would work to increase these programs.

**3. Diversity (courtesy of Capital Area Asian American Democrats) (250 word limit)**

**Asian-Americans are the fastest growing ethnic group in Austin's population by percentage. Will you support the adoption of a comprehensive language access policy for all City of Austin departments and services, along the lines of the ordinance adopted in San Francisco?**

Yes.

**4. Housing (courtesy of Capital Area Progressive Democrats) (250 word limit total)**

**a.) What percentage of money in the upcoming 2012 City bond package should be dedicated to affordable housing, including PSH? Feel free to specify answers for a \$200M, \$300M, and \$400M bond, as the exact amount is yet to be determined.**

I support the largest amount possible for bonds for affordable housing but the exact amount is contingent upon the city's bonding authority and other obligations. I was part of Liveable City's effort to help create the coalition for the last affordable housing bond initiative, which was the first one ever passed in Austin.

**b.) In your opinion, what should be the City Council's commitment to providing affordable housing, and PSH in particular?**

Council has a commitment to build 350 units, but so only 175 have been built or are in process. They should meet their commitment and use the new bonds to build more to meet the tremendous need.

**5. SMD's (courtesy of CAAAD and CAPD)**

**Do you support an all at-large system, a hybrid system, or an all-district system plus an at-large mayor? Please explain. (250 word limit)**

I have always favored SMD's and pushed an SMD election when I was on council. I have signed the petition for 10-1 and believe the organizers have done their homework and are gathering real support. I have also said if a serious alternative emerges, I will consider it and, as a leader, I will work to bring the parties together to try to assure the greatest success for passage of SMD's on the ballot.

**6. Election Dates (courtesy of St. Ed's Democrats) (250 word limit total)**

**a.) Yes or no: do you support putting a charter amendment on the November 2012 ballot to move Austin's municipal elections from May to November?**

Yes.

**b.) Do you personally support moving the Austin municipal elections from May to November? Why or why not?**

I support it but I will follow the wishes of the voters however they decide. Changing the election dates raises some questions that will have to be answered. These include length of council terms, how those terms will be staggered, and whether to have city council elections in odd-numbered years, even-numbered years, or both. I am also concerned about the potential for low voter turnout in the case of a December run-off.

**Mike Martinez – Candidate for Place 2**

**Section I: Political Participation**

**1. Do you self-identify as a Democrat? Why? (250 word limit)**

I’ve been a Democrat all my life. In fact, I was a Democrat before I knew what Democrats were. Mostly, that was because I learned about civic engagement and having a sense of right and wrong from my mother -- from the days when we stood protesting outside the “white’s only” public swimming pool in the town where I grew up. As I grew older, I came to learn that being a Democrat meant providing for those who cannot provide for themselves. I know now that being a Democrat meant having a fundamental understanding of government’s responsibility to represent the least of our society. I am a Democrat because I believe in those core philosophies, and because I’m not afraid of government that’s focused on people rather than lofty, hollow rhetoric.

**2. Voting History.**

**a.) Please mark the box for each election you have voted in. Note: voter history will be cross-checked with public voting records.**

	2011	2010	2009	2008	2006	2005	2004
Primary Election (indicate D or R)	n/a	D	n/a	D	D	n/a	D
Primary Run-off (indicate D or R)	n/a	D	n/a	D		n/a	n/a
Austin Municipal Election	Yes	n/a	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	n/a
Nov. General Election	Yes						

**b.) What was the first Presidential election you voted in? Who did you vote for, and why? (200 word limit)**

If my memory is correct, I was 19 years old when I voted in my first General Presidential Election. I voted for Democrat Michael Dukakis, because he stood for the Democratic values that I believe in. But please let me be clear, there is no magical 200 word essay of a story here. I had just completed my first year of college at Temple Jr. College and was still trying to figure out my place in the world. I participated in the process in those early years because I felt it was the right thing to do. My decisions were based more on my upbringing than any position a candidate may have taken at that time. Since then, I have solidified my upbringing with my own experience, participation and knowledge of our political system and have consistently only voted for Democrats.

**3. Donor History. Please describe your donation history over the last 6 years to candidates, political parties, and non-profit organizations. If you have volunteered for candidates or causes, please detail that here as well. Lists are acceptable. (200 word limit)**

My wife and I donate to many progressive causes. Here are a few examples of my donation history of the last few years. I was proud to endorse and give financial support to President Obama in 2008, and I will do so again during his re-election effort. OBAMANOS!

2012: I have chosen to again participate in the City of Austin’s Combined Charities Program, which automatically deducts a charitable contribution from payroll each month. As part of this program, I will be donating \$300 to Austin Pets Alive, and \$300 to Mobile Loaves and Fishes in 2012.

2011: Casa Marianella, \$200; Austin Pets Alive, \$300; Mobile Loaves and Fishes, \$300; Obama Victory Fund \$150; Fiesta de Independencia Foundation \$500; Austin AFL-CIO \$215; NARAL Pro Choice Texas \$250; CADW-PAC \$250; PODER,

\$100; SAD \$100; Friends of the MACC, Dia de la Raza Event \$100; Ballet East Dance Sponsorship \$50; Planned Parenthood \$500; River City Youth Foundation \$500;

2010: Casa Marianella, \$200; Austin Pets Alive, \$600; Travis County Democratic Party \$500; SAD \$100; Friends of Barton Springs \$100; Florence Comfort House \$200; CAP Area Democratic Women PAC \$500; Austin AFL-CIO Council \$215; CAAAD Asian American Progress PAC, \$100

2009: Casa Marianella, \$200; Travis County \$370; Futuro Fund \$1500; Black Austin Democrats \$60; Lee Leffingwell Campaign \$1400; United East Austin Coalition \$100; SAD \$100; People Fund \$100; Paradigm Shift \$100; National Multiple Sclerosis Society \$50; Austin Pets Alive \$300; Austin NAACP \$150

2008: Obama for America, \$552; TCDP \$70; Vote Orange PAC \$100; South Austin Democrats PAC, \$230; Travis County Democratic Party, \$70;

2006: Annie's List \$50.00; Eddie Rodriguez Campaign \$100 (*truncated due to length*)

## **Section II: Issues**

### **1. Growth (courtesy of Capital City Young Democrats) (250 word limit total)**

- a.) Is Austin's population increasing?**
- b.) What, in your mind, is the single most important thing for the City Council to do in order to manage Austin's population growth?**
- c.) Do you support increased density in Central Austin, namely the area bounded by 2222 to the north, Oltorf to the south, I-35 to the east, and MoPac to the west?**
- d.) If yes to part c, what tools will you use to increase density? If no, why not?**

Since 1850, there is only one decade where Austin did not experience more than 20% growth, so obviously Austin's population is increasing. Proper planning (for land use, infrastructure and tax base) is the single most important thing Council can do to manage growth. We have long established as a priority density and growing a dense urban core. I support that policy. If we want that dense growth to take hold and become sustainable, we have to ensure that affordability reaches into the core of the city. Families, families with children and people of moderate to low income must be able to live in our urban core. Achieving affordability comes from those planning processes and most important, properly funding the results of those processes. We must also continue our work to fully implement the Homestead Preservation District to relive ever increasing property taxes on our older Austinites who would like to remain in the urban core of East Austin.

### **2. Power (courtesy of Austin Environmental Democrats) (250 word limit total)**

- a.) Do you support the movement to generate Austin's power from 100% coal-free sources?**
- b.) What is the best way to handle the City's stake in the Fayette Coal Plant? Pick one, explain your answer.**
  - 1. Do nothing.**
  - 2. Sell the plant.**
  - 3. Retain ownership; do not operate plant.**
  - 4. Other. (Please explain.)**

I absolutely support moving our energy generation to coal-free sources. Creating a plan where we both do not rely on Fayette and can divest ourselves from any interest in the plant should be a priority. It is also imperative that our decision lead to the ultimate closure of the facility all together. It would not be wise for Austin to simply sell its portion of the facility only to have someone else continue polluting our environment.

### **3. Diversity (courtesy of Capital Area Asian American Democrats) (250 word limit)**

**Asian-Americans are the fastest growing ethnic group in Austin's population by percentage. Will you support the adoption of a comprehensive language access policy for all City of Austin departments and services, along the lines of the ordinance adopted in San Francisco?**

Yes, I am more than happy to support this initiative and look forward to working with you in this endeavor.

**4. Housing (courtesy of Capital Area Progressive Democrats) (250 word limit total)**

**a.) What percentage of money in the upcoming 2012 City bond package should be dedicated to affordable housing, including PSH? Feel free to specify answers for a \$200M, \$300M, and \$400M bond, as the exact amount is yet to be determined.**

**b.) In your opinion, what should be the City Council's commitment to providing affordable housing, and PSH in particular?**

Regardless of what percentage of our bond package is dedicated to affordable housing, we can be sure that it's not enough. What we learned with the last \$55M allocation from the 2006 bond package is that we went through that money relatively quickly. I support a doubling of our 2006 efforts and will support the request of the CDC in those efforts. Because the exact amount of our total bond package is yet to be determined, and because we have not yet seen the need in other areas of the city, there really is no way for me to provide an exact number and must reserve any final decision until it is adopted by council. Our commitment to providing affordable housing should be to stretch every dollar possible and ensure that we have coverage across the city. Our challenge is that when it comes time to providing affordable housing in a particular location, there are few neighborhoods or neighbors that are interested in actually having these projects in their neighborhood. We must continue to work on dispelling the myths of affordable housing and ensuring that ALL of Austin share in and understand the work that is necessary. I will continue in those efforts.

**5. SMD's (courtesy of CAAAD and CAPD)**

**Do you support an all at-large system, a hybrid system, or an all-district system plus an at-large mayor? Please explain. (250 word limit)**

First and foremost, I support change. I've supported that change since before I took office in 2006 when I proposed a single member district charter amendment. I was the first council member to bring this issue up after I took office, and I worked to revive this conversation several years ago. It is clear to me that the current system is not yielding the type of involvement or representation worthy of our great city. I am supporting the 10-1 system, and I plan on offering the Charter Revision Committees recommendation to the Council when we are prepared to vote on all recommendations. If there are not enough votes on council to place the 10-1 recommendation to the citizens and an alternative proposal is made, I will likely support that as well. As stated earlier, I support changing our at-large system. We must remain united in our efforts to improve council representation and resist allowing like-minded citizens (those supporting change) to be divided and defeated for a 7<sup>th</sup> time.

**6. Election Dates (courtesy of St. Ed's Democrats) (250 word limit total)**

**a.) Yes or no: do you support putting a charter amendment on the November 2012 ballot to move Austin's municipal elections from May to November?**

**b.) Do you personally support moving the Austin municipal elections from May to November? Why or why not?**

Yes, I fought for moving our municipal elections from May to November when we knew the provisions of SB 100 allowed that and would give us the opportunity to generate much more voter participation. I fully support the proposed charter amendment moving elections from May to November, and I am proud to be one of the sponsors who put that idea forward.

**Laura Pressley – Candidate for Place 2**

**Section I: Political Participation**

**1. Do you self-identify as a Democrat? Why? (250 word limit)**

I am a scientist and engineer and make decisions based on data and as a result I am an independent voter and make my decisions on candidates based on their history, actions, and voting records...not their words or affiliations. I am a fiscal conservative and social and environmental liberal.

Over the last year and half, I've been frustrated with the Democratic and Republican leadership and have seen them corrupted. It also happens here in Austin, where some of our elected Democrats don't VOTE with and protect the people that elected them. Not all Democrats have been corrupted here in Austin but some have and it shows. Today, I'm more independent than that and will not be bought and sold like that. My decision to evolve into an independent voter has been driven by endless national and state corruption, wars overseas, the passage of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

After a lot of research, I am supporting Ron Paul for President because I cannot find another candidate that has committed to stopping the wars. As with many people, I do not agree with Ron Paul on many issues; I simply do not want my taxes spent to kill innocent women, children and men. I just can't take it anymore. Morally, I have to make a stand and say stop the killing and engage in more diplomacy. The three areas that I support Dr. Paul are a) end unconstitutional wars, b) repeal the NDAA, and 3) no more bailouts.

**2. Voting History.**

**a.) Please mark the box for each election you have voted in. Note: voter history will be cross-checked with public voting records. (VAN records show that Pressley voted in the 2010, 2006, and 2004 General Elections)**

	2011	2010	2009	2008	2006	2005	2004
Primary Election (indicate D or R)	n/a	R	n/a	D	?	n/a	?
Primary Run-off (indicate D or R)	n/a	?	n/a	?	?	n/a	n/a
Austin Municipal Election	Yes	n/a	?	?	?	?	n/a
Nov. General Election				Yes			Yes

**b.) What was the first Presidential election you voted in? Who did you vote for, and why? (200 word limit)**

When I turned 18, I voted for Jimmy Carter because I trusted him. When I was in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, I was the campaign manager for George McGovern for my elementary school class. Also, I remember in 4<sup>th</sup> grade writing a letter to President Nixon asking why we were at war with Vietnam because I wanted the killing to stop. I've been an anti-war advocate for a long time.

**3. Donor History. Please describe your donation history over the last 6 years to candidates, political parties, and non-profit organizations. If you have volunteered for candidates or causes, please detail that here as well. Lists are acceptable. (200 word limit)**

Over the last 20 years, I've voted, campaigned, donated to Democrats and involved with MoveOn.org, donated and campaigned for Kerry, donated to Hillary, volunteered for Kelly White, canvassed in the rain on election

day with Valinda Bolton for Kelly and supported Valinda's campaign financially. Most recently I have donated to Ron Paul's campaign to help get his message out about ending the unconstitutional wars. From a non-profit standpoint, I've donated to SafePlace, Women's Advocacy Project, Discover Hope Fund, Nature Conservancy, Houston Area Women's Center (where my daughter and I were shelter residents in 1987), Goodwill, Texas 4000 Atlas Ride, Art House, Susan G. Kommen Foundation.

## **Section II: Issues**

### **1. Growth (courtesy of Capital City Young Democrats) (250 word limit total)**

#### **a.) Is Austin's population increasing?**

Yes.

#### **b.) What, in your mind, is the single most important thing for the City Council to do in order to manage Austin's population growth?**

We are running out of water resources. We must focus on creative water reuse, rainwater collection, repair leaks in our infrastructure, and conserve.

#### **c.) Do you support increased density in Central Austin, namely the area bounded by 2222 to the north, Oltorf to the south, I-35 to the east, and MoPac to the west?**

The Comprehensive Plan increased our density in Central Austin and my concerns related to this are we don't have the water resources defined for the growth and the traffic solutions in place to effectively manage it. Until I see effective infrastructure plans, I am not supporting it.

#### **d.) If yes to part c, what tools will you use to increase density? If no, why not?**

n/a

### **2. Power (courtesy of Austin Environmental Democrats) (250 word limit total)**

#### **a.) Do you support the movement to generate Austin's power from 100% coal-free sources?**

I do support this. Austin gets 30% of it's power from the Fayette Power Plant in La Grange which has been known to damage acres of agricultural orchards due to sulfur and mercury emissions. We need an energy plan that ensures supply, ends our exploitation of sulfur and mercury containing coal, ends polluting of our neighbor's private property and plants, invests in renewable sources, and also provides **no increases** in utility expenses for citizens. Our utility rates continue to increase and this is absolutely unacceptable. The Council needs to provide the leadership and demand the city utility departments cut operating expenditures instead of raising rates.

#### **b.) What is the best way to handle the City's stake in the Fayette Coal Plant? Pick one, explain your answer.**

#### **4. Other. (Please explain.)**

We cannot fully sell the plant given we own only 1/2 of the interest. We have the options to sell our portion to LCRA and/or use our political pressure and influence them to also divest in the plant.

### **3. Diversity (courtesy of Capital Area Asian American Democrats) (250 word limit)**

**Asian-Americans are the fastest growing ethnic group in Austin's population by percentage. Will you support the adoption of a comprehensive language access policy for all City of Austin departments and services, along the lines of the ordinance adopted in San Francisco?**

There are numerous languages within the Asian-American community (Korean, Mandarin, Japanese, Vietnamese, etc.) and I support the adoption of a comprehensive language access policy for City of Austin departments. Given there are so many varying Asian cultures and languages, I'd like more information on how to support them all. We may be able to do it with technology options where voice activated information can be translated in writing and transferred verbally in a language of choice. These options are available and we should pursue them in Austin.

**4. Housing (courtesy of Capital Area Progressive Democrats) (250 word limit total)**

**a.) What percentage of money in the upcoming 2012 City bond package should be dedicated to affordable housing, including PSH? Feel free to specify answers for a \$200M, \$300M, and \$400M bond, as the exact amount is yet to be determined.**

I would support 1/3 of the funds to be used for affordable housing capital investments.

**b.) In your opinion, what should be the City Council's commitment to providing affordable housing, and PSH in particular?**

Affordable housing is high in priority. My priorities are:

- 1) Traffic solutions
- 2) Affordable Housing
- 3) Sustainability projects

**5. SMD's (courtesy of CAAAD and CAPD)**

**Do you support an all at-large system, a hybrid system, or an all-district system plus an at-large mayor? Please explain. (250 word limit)**

I support the geographical representation plan of 10-1. Where 10 member districts are drawn by a non-partisan randomly selected committee and the 10 members are elected from their respective districts. The Mayoral seat would be the only at large seat. This will better reflect and represent the needs across our varied communities that today do not have a voice.

**6. Election Dates (courtesy of St. Ed's Democrats) (250 word limit total)**

**a.) Yes or no: do you support putting a charter amendment on the November 2012 ballot to move Austin's municipal elections from May to November?**

Yes

**b.) Do you personally support moving the Austin municipal elections from May to November? Why or why not?**

Yes. The more voter engagement and turnout, the better.

**Tina Cannon – Candidate for Place 5**

**Section I: Political Participation**

**1. Do you self-identify as a Democrat? Why? (250 word limit)**

Yes, I served as co-chair for precinct 349 and chair of precinct 339 for the Democratic Party. I am a member of the Black Austin Democrats and Stonewall Democrats. I actively attend other democratic group meetings and have voted democratic throughout my life.

**2. Voting History.**

**a.) Please mark the box for each election you have voted in. Note: voter history will be cross-checked with public voting records. In an effort to not misstate, please feel free to pull public records. (VAN records show that Cannon voted in the 2008, 2006, 2005 and 2004 General Elections)**

	2011	2010	2009	2008	2006	2005	2004
Primary Election (indicate D or R)	n/a	D	n/a	D	D	n/a	D
Primary Run-off (indicate D or R)	n/a	D	n/a	D		n/a	n/a
Austin Municipal Election		n/a					n/a
Nov. General Election							

**b.) What was the first Presidential election you voted in? Who did you vote for, and why? (200 word limit)**

Clinton/Gore '92. I am a lifelong Democrat.

**3. Donor History. Please describe your donation history over the last 6 years to candidates, political parties, and non-profit organizations. If you have volunteered for candidates or causes, please detail that here as well. Lists are acceptable. (200 word limit)**

None.

**Section II: Issues**

**1. Growth (courtesy of Capital City Young Democrats) (250 word limit total)**

- a.) Is Austin’s population increasing?**
- b.) What, in your mind, is the single most important thing for the City Council to do in order to manage Austin’s population growth?**
- c.) Do you support increased density in Central Austin, namely the area bounded by 2222 to the north, Oltorf to the south, I-35 to the east, and MoPac to the west?**
- d.) If yes to part c, what tools will you use to increase density? If no, why not?**

(a)There is little doubt that as a city we will add an additional 750,000 residents to Austin over the next 25-30 years. (b)Failing to plan for this growth is planning to fail. Development regulations need to be carefully weighed with resident and neighborhood groups on an individual basis allowing for flexibility to provide for growth while maintaining the cornerstone of who we are as a green sustainable city. We need a clear community consensus before moving forward. (c/d) I would work within the framework of the Imagine Austin Plan, neighborhood organizations and environmental groups giving equal weight to the FLUM in cases where

the plans conflict. I believe the comp plan was inclusive of so many groups within our city from environmentalists to neighborhood groups to urban planners to business all having a role on the development of this framework of a vision for Austin. I view this plan as just that, a vision framework. This is not a set of standards or policy. We should all work from the same playbook and make adjustments as needs arise on an individual basis. Thankfully Austin is not a “cookie cutter” type of town which also means that it is near impossible for us to consider and plan for each variation or circumstance that may arise with future development needs. But by having a common ground starting point we can work efficiently together as many different factions while all working toward a common vision.

**2. Power (courtesy of Austin Environmental Democrats) (250 word limit total)**

**a.) Do you support the movement to generate Austin’s power from 100% coal-free sources?**

**b.) What is the best way to handle the City’s stake in the Fayette Coal Plant? Pick one, explain your answer.**

- 1. Do nothing.**
- 2. Sell the plant.**
- 3. Retain ownership; do not operate plant.**
- 4. Other. (Please explain.)**

(a) Austin is a city that is committed to it’s culture of fostering a green lifestyle. From Clean Energy Initiatives, to SOS, to saying no to STNP, going coal-free, encouraging hybrid cars, solar power and so much more. We are a city with a soul and care deeply about our impact in world. We are a city of entrepreneurs, whether it be in the traditional independent business environment, high-tech and startup space or environmental leadership. We are constantly pushing to be better and unique. I have lived here for nearly 20 years and know without fail that Austin is my home until I take my last breath of clean air. I will work with environmental experts, energy experts and community leaders to determine the correct path forward to moving Austin away from coal by 2016. (b) Retain; do not operate.

**3. Diversity (courtesy of Capital Area Asian American Democrats) (250 word limit)**

**Asian-Americans are the fastest growing ethnic group in Austin’s population by percentage. Will you support the adoption of a comprehensive language access policy for all City of Austin departments and services, along the lines of the ordinance adopted in San Francisco?**

Austin has grown so very much in the last few decades and it is time for its citizens to be better represented and reflected within city government. For too long, the Asian community has been overlooked. As a first generation American and daughter of an immigrant (my mother is Turkish), I have felt this struggle personally. I believe that the city should have measures in place that facilitate the process for those who require assistance in understanding the services provided by the City as well as emergency alerts and directions.

**4. Housing (courtesy of Capital Area Progressive Democrats) (250 word limit total)**

**a.) What percentage of money in the upcoming 2012 City bond package should be dedicated to affordable housing, including PSH? Feel free to specify answers for a \$200M, \$300M, and \$400M bond, as the exact amount is yet to be determined.**

**b.) In your opinion, what should be the City Council's commitment to providing affordable housing, and PSH in particular?**

(a) I would support bond measures in the proposed package that support funds for affordable housing in conjunction with transportation to and from these areas but would need to review the bond package in it’s entirety to determine to amount we can allocate relative to other projects within the overall package.

(b) I would look to models like Portland’s Permanent Supportive Housing Program that convened a diverse group of stakeholders to analyze what it will take to successfully implement PSH and reduce homelessness for those families who can not retain stable housing without tightly linked supportive services. As a child, I grew up in public housing and fully understand the impact of having the option available for my mother and I. The goal of public housing to assist those in need; to the extent that a development would be counter intuitive to

assisting folks as a result of size or location would be a concern and/or a negative impact on an existing neighborhood would all be factors I would consider examine prior to allocation of resources for development.

**5. SMD's (courtest of CAAAD and CAPD)**

**Do you support an all at-large system, a hybrid system, or an all-district system plus an at-large mayor? Please explain. (250 word limit)**

Austin has grown up as a city and our city government structure should reflect a single member district format. Not only do I support the 10-1 plan and have from day one of my campaign but also an independent redistricting committee. In addition, I would move elections from May where historically 7% of registered voters participate to the November elections where over 500,000 Austinites participate and have a voice in their choice for City Council. I support the work of the Charter Commission and would look to pass resolutions placed before me on council.

**6. Election Dates (courtesy of St. Ed's Democrats) (250 word limit total)**

**a.) Yes or no: do you support putting a charter amendment on the November 2012 ballot to move Austin's municipal elections from May to November?**

YES

**b.) Do you personally support moving the Austin municipal elections from May to November? Why or why not?**

YES

As stated above.

**John Duffy – Candidate for Place 6**

**Section I: Political Participation**

**1. Do you self-identify as a Democrat? Why? (250 word limit)**

No. I self-identify as an anarchist. I believe people should be free to self organize without the tyranny of state or capital. That said, I see that the way humans are operating currently is destructive to these ends.

Governments big and small are prohibiting people and communities from meeting their needs without appealing to state or money powers. Hence my candidacy. I would like to assist people in meeting their needs locally and on there own by removing barriers that have been placed upon them.

**2. Voting History.**

**a.) Please mark the box for each election you have voted in. Note: voter history will be cross-checked with public voting records.**

The last time I voted was the 2008 primary and I voted for Ron Paul. I voted for a libertarian candidate in 2004. This was when I still believed that capitalist-imperialism could be halted if enough people cared and appealed to the system. Ahh, youth.

	2011	2010	2009	2008	2006	2005	2004
Primary Election (indicate D or R)	n/a		n/a			n/a	
Primary Run-off (indicate D or R)	n/a		n/a				
Austin Municipal Election		n/a					n/a
Nov. General Election							

**If you were voting in a county other than Travis, please tell us where and in what years.**

I only ever voted before in Kane, County Illinois.

**b.) What was the first Presidential election you voted in? Who did you vote for, and why? (200 word limit)**

2000. Harry Browne, Libertarian candidate. I liked his stance on ending the drug war and ending corporate welfare.

**3. Donor History. Please describe your donation history over the last 6 years to candidates, political parties, and non-profit organizations. If you have volunteered for candidates or causes, please detail that here as well. Lists are acceptable. (200 word limit)**

I have never donated to a candidate.

**Section II: Issues**

**1. Growth (courtesy of Capital City Young Democrats) (250 word limit total)**

**a.) Is Austin’s population increasing?**

Yes, but we are encouraging it. A goldfish grows to the size of it’s bowl. If we want to hold the line on the decimation of the land base here, and to preserve what keeps Austin special, we should not incentivize infinite growth.

**b.) What, in your mind, is the single most important thing for the City Council to do in order to manage Austin's population growth?**

Stop development. Stop expanding. I don't want to manage per-se the natural migration of people, but I don't want to encourage more people to come live on a land base that cannot support this much human life with massive reliance on fossil fuels.

**c.) Do you support increased density in Central Austin, namely the area bounded by 2222 to the north, Oltorf to the south, I-35 to the east, and MoPac to the west?**

Not necessarily. This is a pretty vague question.

**d.) If yes to part c, what tools will you use to increase density? If no, why not?**

I want communities to be sustainable, or at least, more sustainable than they are. If that means an area needs more fruit and nuts trees as well as two small permaculture farms, that may not count as density. But if it allows people to access food without driving a car, it is a positive step.

**2. Power (courtesy of Austin Environmental Democrats) (250 word limit total)**

**a.) Do you support the movement to generate Austin's power from 100% coal-free sources?**

Absolutely. No question.

**b.) What is the best way to handle the City's stake in the Fayette Coal Plant? Pick one, explain your answer.**

- 1. Do nothing.**
- 2. Sell the plant.**
- 3. Retain ownership; do not operate plant**

Retain ownership, but perhaps sell of the pieces, scrap, etc. I don't want to hand it over for someone else to use, but we also should see if breaking it down and selling off pieces can bring in even a small amount of money. This keeps the plant from being used in the future.

**3. Diversity (courtesy of Capital Area Asian American Democrats) (250 word limit) Asian-Americans are the fastest growing ethnic group in Austin's population by percentage. Will you support the adoption of a comprehensive language access policy for all City of Austin departments and services, along the lines of the ordinance adopted in San Francisco?**

I'm not sure what this would specifically entail, but if it basically just means that official documentation is available in Chinese, Vietnamese, what have you, as well as English and Spanish. Sure, I don't see a problem with that.

**4. Housing (courtesy of Capital Area Progressive Democrats) (250 word limit total)**

**a.) What percentage of money in the upcoming 2012 City bond package should be dedicated to affordable housing, including PSH? Feel free to specify answers for a \$200M, \$300M, and \$400M bond, as the exact amount is yet to be determined.**

I have absolutely no idea. I'm anti bond packages to begin with. Bonds are debts, and debts are paid at interest, and this requires growth of the financial base to cover the spread. Growth requires energy and the decimation of living spaces here or elsewhere to satisfy. Ultimately, growth is also what makes housing less affordable, so it all seems circular.

**b.) In your opinion, what should be the City Council's commitment to providing affordable housing, and PSH in particular?**

I think we need to re-evaluate what we even consider a house. Rammed Earth, straw bale, and cob homes can be built for roughly \$15,000. They are Earth friendly and they require less energy to heat and cool.

**5. SMD's (courtesy of CAAAD and CAPD)**

**Do you support an all at-large system, a hybrid system, or an all-district system plus an at-large mayor? Please explain. (250 word limit)**

I have absolutely no preference. I abhor the concept of central power that all people must appeal to and bow to. A district representative is still going to head out of the neighborhood and down to some stuffy building downtown where they primarily care about how to dole out development contracts. I don't see average, every day Austinites benefiting one way or the other.

**6. Election Dates (courtesy of St. Ed's Democrats) (250 word limit total)**

**a.) Yes or no: do you support putting a charter amendment on the November 2012 ballot to move Austin's municipal elections from May to November?**

No.

**b.) Do you personally support moving the Austin municipal elections from May to November? Why or why not?**

No. Again, I honestly am indifferent, but I find the question fascinating. Voter turnout is low because people don't care. They don't see the city government as a valid part of their lives. And it really isn't for most people.

I can't help but wonder why so many people are interested in increasing voter turnout. Do they think this will change the dynamics of what actually happens in City Hall? Or do they just want the numbers higher to make the city government have a higher appearance of validity?

**Robert “Bo” Prudente – Candidate for Place 5**

**Section I: Political Participation**

**1. Do you self-identify as a Democrat? Why?**

No. I feel that to be a member of any political party one must adhere to the straight line philosophy of that party which would include using "blindness" to keep you from seeing and maybe agreeing with an alternative and antithetical party tenet.

**2. Voting History.**

**a.) Please mark the box for each election you have voted in. Note: voter history will be cross-checked with public voting records. (VAN showed no voting history for Prudente)**

	2011	2010	2009	2008	2006	2005	2004
Primary Election (indicate D or R)	n/a		n/a			n/a	
Primary Run-off (indicate D or R)	n/a		n/a				
Austin Municipal Election		n/a					n/a
Nov. General Election							

**b.) What was the first Presidential election you voted in? Who did you vote for, and why? (200 word limit)**

I gave up voting a while back due to mistrust in the system. I have voted erratically however, I don't remember for what candidates or when I voted. I have, within the last couple of years, awakened to a new political perspective that has given me reason to reject the straight line party affiliation. I believe that we all should be a straight line party to the Declaration of Independence and the bill of rights. Both the Dems and Reps are showing strong signs of moving in a direction away from both. I am for the rights of people and their struggle to maintain economic buoyancy in a sea of growth that has created a widening gap between those that can afford to live here and those that can't.

**3. Donor History. Please describe your donation history over the last 6 years to candidates, political parties, and non-profit organizations. If you have volunteered for candidates or causes, please detail that here as well. Lists are acceptable. (200 word limit)**

I am against giving money to big campaigns. I believe that if a person or corporation wishes to donate to the "election process" it should go into a fund for equal distribution. The election process should not be "bought" as I see it by the millions of dollars pumped into individual campaigns that can and often does create a disadvantage for the candidate that receives lesser contributions. Campaigns should be won on campaign speeches. On non-profits---I give to my favorite charity, the Shriners. I do toss loose change into collection receptacles at stores for many different charities.

**Section II: Issues**

**1. Growth (courtesy of Capital City Young Democrats) (250 word limit total)**

**a.) Is Austin’s population increasing?**

Yes

**b.) What, in your mind, is the single most important thing for the City Council to do in order to manage Austin's population growth?**

The 2 most important factors in any town infrastructure is water first and electricity second. They are the 2 supporting legs of our entire infrastructure that if either collapsed, so would our economy. So, to manage growth, you must manage water first. Right now there is a dark cloud looming over the future of our supply of fresh water. At this time the key word is conservation. What, if sometime in the future, there is no water to conserve? What is plan B?

For those that believe that is the wrong answer then, my second factor would be to have sufficient affordable housing which there is also a shortage of section 8 affordable housing.

**c.) Do you support increased density in Central Austin, namely the area bounded by 2222 to the north, Oltorf to the south, I-35 to the east, and MoPac to the west?**

**d.) If yes to part c, what tools will you use to increase density? If no, why not?**

I support density in Central Austin. I believe that the Heritage Tree ordinance should be respected while utilizing VMU plans. There are enough Capital Metro bus routes criss-crossing Austin so I do not really see a strong need for TOD. If a need arises for additional bus routes then by all means that should be examined.

**2. Power (courtesy of Austin Environmental Democrats) (250 word limit total)**

**a.) Do you support the movement to generate Austin's power from 100% coal-free sources?**

Yes

**b.) What is the best way to handle the City's stake in the Fayette Coal Plant? Pick one, explain your answer.**

**3. Retain ownership, do not operate plant.**

One controversy about the Fayette coal-fired plant is air pollution. Why would Austin change to coal-free energy for clean air and then sell the plant to someone else that could possibly continue to use coal? Wouldn't that be hypocritical?

**3. Diversity (courtesy of Capital Area Asian American Democrats) (250 word limit)**

**Asian-Americans are the fastest growing ethnic group in Austin's population by percentage. Will you support the adoption of a comprehensive language access policy for all City of Austin departments and services, along the lines of the ordinance adopted in San Francisco?**

I am not sure how San Francisco operates but, I believe that if a non-English speaking person is living in Austin, working and paying taxes, then that person should be afforded the opportunity to address their concerns to the proper representative in their native tongue and be understood.

**4. Housing (courtesy of Capital Area Progressive Democrats) (250 word limit total)**

**a.) What percentage of money in the upcoming 2012 City bond package should be dedicated to affordable housing, including PSH? Feel free to specify answers for a \$200M, \$300M, and \$400M bond, as the exact amount is yet to be determined.**

With the latest figures for homeless at 2,300, the number is increasing. So is the need for assistance and section 8. So is the cost of maintaining these housing facilities. I say \$400 million.

**b.) In your opinion, what should be the City Council's commitment to providing affordable housing, and PSH in particular?**

My opinion is that there should not be any homeless in Austin. One responsibility of government is to provide security for its' citizens. Permanent Supportative Housing offers considerably more in terms of need and is an excellent program in that regard although rather costly. Still, PSH is a needed program that serves a wonderful purpose. Maybe, instead of incentives to corporations moving to Austin in the form of tax cuts, the council should write the contract to allow only half of the tax abatement while the other half goes into the affordable housing and homeless/PSH fund. Hey, at least we'll let something good out of it!

**5. SMD's (courtesy of CAAAD and CAPD)**

**Do you support an all at-large system, a hybrid system, or an all-district system plus an at-large mayor? Please explain. (250 word limit)**

I support an all-district system plus an at-large mayor. Austin is too large for at-large. There should be districts that have representatives that will be responsible for taking action on district issues.

**6. Election Dates (courtesy of St. Ed's Democrats) (250 word limit total)**

**a.) Yes or no: do you support putting a charter amendment on the November 2012 ballot to move Austin's municipal elections from May to November?**

**b.) Do you personally support moving the Austin municipal elections from May to November? Why or why not?**

Yes.....I am in favor of a charter amendment on the November 2012 ballot.

Yes.....With a dismal 7% turnout for local elections, I think that percentage will increase drastically by holding the election in November when there is a greater voter turnout for elections.

**Bill Spelman – Candidate for Place 5**

**Section I: Political Participation**

**1. Do you self-identify as a Democrat? Why? (250 word limit)**

YES. Like all right-minded people, I'm a Boston Red Sox fan. The Sox lost the 1986 World Series (their first serious opportunity to win a world championship since they sold Babe Ruth in 1918) when first baseman Bill Buckner failed to charge a ground ball in Game 6 and let it dribble through his legs. I'm not much of a basketball player, but I'm a very experienced infielder. The first rule of infield defense is to charge ground balls. When you charge the ball, you're in control; when you sit and wait for it to come to you, the ball's in control.

Democrats charge ground balls. We charged the Depression, the Nazis, the rebuilding of Europe, social security and health care for seniors, civil rights, voting rights – we solve people's problems. Republicans think all our problems would be solved if we cut taxes (presumably leaving those problems alone). I'd be happier if, as a party, we spent more time watching the budget, only spending money when and how we think it will do the most good. But I'll be damned if I'll let that ball dribble through my legs. The people deserve a government that tries to solve their problems, and I'm proud to be a member of the party that does that.

**2. Voting History.**

**a.) Please mark the box for each election you have voted in. Note: voter history will be cross-checked with public voting records.**

	2011	2010	2009	2008	2006	2005	2004
Primary Election (indicate D or R)	n/a	D	n/a	*	D	n/a	D
Primary Run-off (indicate D or R)	n/a	D	n/a	D		n/a	n/a
Austin Municipal Election	x	n/a	x	x	x	x	n/a
Nov. General Election	x	x		x	x	x	x

\*Voted by mail from Lima, Peru in 2008 Dem Primary. My ballot arrived late.

**b.) What was the first Presidential election you voted in? Who did you vote for, and why? (200 word limit)**

The first vote I ever cast was for Jimmy Carter, in the 1976 California primary. In fall 1975, I had signed up for Birch Bayh, mostly because of his excellent record on labor issues; for a few bright, shining weeks, I could claim to be the Bayh statewide coordinator. I think this meant I was the only person in the State of California who knew who the heck Birch Bayh was. Birch dropped out early, and the race eventually narrowed to Carter and Mo Udall. Most of my friends were for Udall – a safer choice, given his long history in Congress. Nevertheless, I saw an opportunity to convert my Republican parents to the Democratic party by focusing on Carter's sincerity and southern accent (always helpful with my Missouri-born father). Carter also had an excellent environmental record as Georgia governor, had been a nuclear engineer in the U.S. Navy, and was a fresh face who could reasonably claim to be untainted by Potomac politics.

Jimmy didn't work out as well as any of us planned; experience counts, in politics no less than in any other job. But my parents voted for him, and – so far as I can tell – have stayed Democrats ever since. All things considered, I'm happy with my decision.

**3. Donor History. Please describe your donation history over the last 6 years to candidates, political parties, and non-profit organizations. If you have volunteered for candidates or causes, please detail that here as well. Lists are acceptable. (200 word limit)**

I donate to a wide variety of nonprofit organizations, and have devoted a lot of my time to the City of Austin and other local governments as unpaid consultant, commissioner, and most recently as unpaid City Council member. I've also donated to a variety of national Democratic campaigns, the Travis County Democratic Party, Annie's List, and other organizations that support progressive candidates.

**Section II: Issues**

**1. Growth (courtesy of Capital City Young Democrats) (250 word limit total)**

**a.) Is Austin's population increasing?**

YES. We won't double in size over the next twenty years – those days are thankfully over – but we will continue to increase, probably at a much higher rate than most U.S. cities.

**b.) What, in your mind, is the single most important thing for the City Council to do in order to manage Austin's population growth?**

We need to grow smart, using our zoning and planning efforts to direct growth along transit corridors while maintaining the quality of life in our urban neighborhoods. To support this, we need to provide additional transit options (including bus rapid transit and rail), bike lanes, and sidewalks. The alternative – suburban sprawl – sacrifices our environment and increases costs to all of us.

**c.) Do you support increased density in Central Austin, namely the area bounded by 2222 to the north, Oltorf to the south, I-35 to the east, and MoPac to the west?**

YES, within limits. Growing from within (and reducing sprawl) is best for the environment, minimizing our carbon footprint and maintaining air and water quality. It also reduces the costs of infrastructure, since we pay for roads, water and sewer lines by the linear foot. It ensures that a wide variety of housing types are available; many new migrants to Austin are comfortable with townhouses, three-deckers, and other forms not readily available in Austin now. And, by reducing vehicle-miles traveled and increasing the potential for transit, it will improve traffic congestion. Current zoning already provides for sufficient increases in density to provide for thousands of new residents; the experience of other cities suggests that we can increase density considerably without sacrificing the current quality of life in our neighborhoods.

**d.) If yes to part c, what tools will you use to increase density? If no, why not?**

The city's best tools for increasing density are the transportation options that make it possible. In particular, we need to develop a regional rail system that doesn't cost too much and connects residents and jobs within the central city. Our primary challenges going forward are identifying where to get the money and how to operate the system. I believe Austin voters will support the system once we've worked these questions out.

**2. Power (courtesy of Austin Environmental Democrats) (250 word limit total)**

**a.) Do you support the movement to generate Austin's power from 100% coal-free sources?**

YES, I envision a utility that no longer relies on the Fayette Power Project to supply Austin's electricity.

**b.) What is the best way to handle the City's stake in the Fayette Coal Plant? Pick one, explain your answer.**

- 1. Do nothing.**
- 2. Sell the plant.**

**3. Retain ownership; do not operate plant.****4. Other. (Please explain.)**

I sponsored a resolution last September calling on AE to study the options for handling FPP and very much look forward to seeing the results of that study later this summer. Until that report is completed, I cannot commit to one course of action.

If the analysis supports my current understanding, I would choose #2, sell the plant. Austin Energy has a tremendous amount of equity built up in FPP and it is my fiduciary responsibility to the city's ratepayers and taxpayers to ensure we use those resources wisely. LCRA will have right of first refusal over AE's share in the plant and I understand that we cannot unilaterally choose to cease operations of our 50% ownership of units 1 and 2 without LCRA's consent. It may make more sense to sell our share and use the proceeds to fund our renewable energy and conservation programs, and build up our rate stabilization funds to help keep future rate increases as small as possible. While it is still a dirty power plant, FPP is one of the cleaner coal-burning plants in the state. If we can prevent the development of an entirely new coal-fired plant by keeping AE's share of FPP on-line, we would benefit both the environment and society.

**3. Diversity (courtesy of Capital Area Asian American Democrats) (250 word limit)**

**Asian-Americans are the fastest growing ethnic group in Austin's population by percentage. Will you support the adoption of a comprehensive language access policy for all City of Austin departments and services, along the lines of the ordinance adopted in San Francisco?**

YES. Specifically, I support a policy that provides clear procedures for staff who need to access an interpreter, restricts the use of bystanders, minors and family members as interpreters, and designates a staff person as a language access liaison to oversee training and implementation. Everyone needs water, electricity, and public safety. Everyone needs access to city government, and language should be no barrier.

**4. Housing (courtesy of Capital Area Progressive Democrats) (250 word limit total)**

**a.) What percentage of money in the upcoming 2012 City bond package should be dedicated to affordable housing, including PSH? Feel free to specify answers for a \$200M, \$300M, and \$400M bond, as the exact amount is yet to be determined.**

I believe a 2012 bond package may be premature. We haven't finished our bond projects from the last three bond packages. (We have over \$100 million left in unspent funds on transportation alone.) Other jurisdictions are also looking at bond proposals that will likely stretch Austin taxpayers considerably. Our bonds may be more likely to pass if we wait until 2013. If a bond program does move forward this year, I support bonds for affordable housing, including PSH. The amount would have to be balanced with all other needs; I can't give a percentage until I see the other needs.

**b.) In your opinion, what should be the City Council's commitment to providing affordable housing, and PSH in particular?**

I am fully committed to the provision of affordable housing, and believe it must be one of the Council's highest priorities. I support an affordable housing program that spreads affordable units, both rental and homeownership, all over town. This is one reason I support permanent supportive housing downtown. Land costs are higher in some parts of town, so this increases our costs; we need to strike a reasonable balance between the number of units built and geographic equity. I will support additional affordable housing money in the next bond election, in order to help us move towards this goal.

We also need to recognize that the price of housing responds to the laws of supply and demand, and to the costs of construction. Anything city government can do to move permits through the mill faster will reduce costs to buyers and renters. We cannot sacrifice legal requirements and housing standards, but we can dramatically improve efficiency by insisting on monthly reports (as we did in the 1990s) and ensuring that permitting departments have the resources they need to provide timely, accurate reviews.

**5. SMD's (courtesy of CAAAD and CAPD)**

**Do you support an all at-large system, a hybrid system, or an all-district system plus an at-large mayor? Please explain. (250 word limit)**

The present system was born broken. We need a change and I've supported district representation since I came to Austin in the 1980s. I will, of course, support it again. But voters have turned down six proposals for change in a row, and my primary concern is that the next proposal actually *pass*. I will gladly support any politically viable proposal that will provide geographic representation. The Council needs to look like the public.

**6. Election Dates (courtesy of St. Ed's Democrats) (250 word limit total)**

**a.) Yes or no: do you support putting a charter amendment on the November 2012 ballot to move Austin's municipal elections from May to November?**

YES. I don't believe the Council had the legal authority to move the election from May to November. The Charter requires a May election, and, under the Texas Constitution, a city charter can only be changed by city voters. (Even in Texas, the state legislature can't override the constitution.) Even if the legislature could have authorized us to override city voters and the charter, I don't think it's appropriate to extend my term by six months without voter approval. But it's perfectly appropriate for voters to decide this issue.

**b.) Do you personally support moving the Austin municipal elections from May to November? Why or why not?**

YES. It will increase voter turnout, and it will increase voter participation in public safety, water and electric power, parks and libraries, and other city functions and issues.

**Sheryl Cole – Candidate for Place 6**

**Section I: Political Participation**

**1. Do you self-identify as a Democrat? Why? (250 word limit)**

I believe in the diversity of perspectives, opinions, and experiences to be a corner stone in establishing a strong healthy community. As a city, we must protect our environment, support our social services, improve our education system, and invest in our infrastructure, all while being fiscally responsible and accountable to taxpayers. It's because of these beliefs I have always identified myself as a strong Democrat.

**2. Voting History.**

**a.) Please mark the box for each election you have voted in. Note: voter history will be cross-checked with public voting records.**

	2011	2010	2009	2008	2006	2005	2004
Primary Election (indicate D or R)	n/a	D	n/a	D	D	n/a	D
Primary Run-off (indicate D or R)	n/a	D	n/a	D	D	n/a	n/a
Austin Municipal Election	X	n/a	X	X	X		n/a
Nov. General Election	X	X	X	X	X	X	

**b.) What was the first Presidential election you voted in? Who did you vote for, and why? (200 word limit)**

My first presidential election was in 1992 and I voted for Bill Clinton. I was a Clinton Delegate at both the county and State convention.

**3. Donor History. Please describe your donation history over the last 6 years to candidates, political parties, and non-profit organizations. If you have volunteered for candidates or causes, please detail that here as well. Lists are acceptable. (200 word limit)**

I have given to: United Way, Communities in School, Planned Parenthood, Anti-Defamation League, Urban League, NAACP, Leadership Austin

**Section II: Issues**

**1. Growth (courtesy of Capital City Young Democrats) (250 word limit total)**

**a.) Is Austin’s population increasing?**

I have been using the growth model that has Austin doubling in population size every twenty years.

**b.) What, in your mind, is the single most important thing for the City Council to do in order to manage Austin’s population growth?**

Austin is a vibrant urban center and I want to make sure as we rapidly grow, we make the right decisions for our long term health. For me a sustainable Austin is one where we as the City of Austin can continue to provide services that government provides including public safety, power, transportation and social services to all of our citizenry without burdening the tax payers unduly. I am committed to our carbon reduction goals, our

environmental protections, but most important for me is if we can keep or even enhance the quality of life for residents of Austin throughout the City than we are truly sustainable.

**c.) Do you support increased density in Central Austin, namely the area bounded by 2222 to the north, Oltorf to the south, I-35 to the east, and MoPac to the west?**

Yes, I would like for the density in Central Austin to increase and I look forward to working with the Council and the City to ensure it is done in the best possible way for the community.

**d.) If yes to part c, what tools will you use to increase density? If no, why not?**

I want to make sure that we do put our development in context within the City and not allow developers to plunk density down wherever and I think the city staff has done necessary planning to encourage Transit Oriented Development for example. I believe very strongly in private property rights and the market will determine where density belongs. I encourage more urban commercial centers to decrease sprawl and have great hope in the identified TOD areas.

**2. Power (courtesy of Austin Environmental Democrats) (250 word limit total)**

**a.) Do you support the movement to generate Austin's power from 100% coal-free sources?**

Yes, I do support the idea of Austin being %100 coal free and would be willing to investigate the selling of our shares of the Fayette coal plant in the future.

**b.) What is the best way to handle the City's stake in the Fayette Coal Plant? Pick one, explain your answer.**

- 1. Do nothing.**
- 2. Sell the plant.**
- 3. Retain ownership; do not operate plant.**
- 4. Other. (Please explain.)**

Right now, I believe that it is important to keep our share of the Fayette coal plant as the cost of fuel without carbon tax and the reliability of the coal-generated power is vital to our energy mix. In the future, especially if it is determined that the Central Texas area exceeds federally set levels of ozone and is in non-attainment, the addition of a carbon tax, and the addition of new renewable energy technology, but as stated above I would support investigating the sale of our share of the Fayette coal plant.

**3. Diversity (courtesy of Capital Area Asian American Democrats) (250 word limit)**

**Asian-Americans are the fastest growing ethnic group in Austin's population by percentage. Will you support the adoption of a comprehensive language access policy for all City of Austin departments and services, along the lines of the ordinance adopted in San Francisco?**

I do agree that our Asian-American community is the fastest growing and believe it is very important for their involvement in the community and City matters. While I need to better educate my self on San Francisco's ordinance. I would certainly be open to the idea of adopting a similar policy for the City of Austin.

**4. Housing (courtesy of Capital Area Progressive Democrats) (250 word limit total)**

**a.) What percentage of money in the upcoming 2012 City bond package should be dedicated to affordable housing, including PSH? Feel free to specify answers for a \$200M, \$300M, and \$400M bond, as the exact amount is yet to be determined.**

One of the clear patterns emerging from the bond advisory task force is that the needs of the city are great.

And what has become apparent during my time on council, and in particular the last year, is that the need to maintain affordability has never been more challenging. My colleagues and I requested that the task force return with multiple scenarios so that we can better evaluate the marginal gain of a larger package. While I

await those citizen recommendations, I will say that I would find it hard to support the high end of that range with significant tax implications.

**b.) In your opinion, what should be the City Council's commitment to providing affordable housing, and PSH in particular?**

Although I know the cost of housing is market driven, our population has doubled every twenty years. I want to encourage the building of more new homes in our City limits, especially in our desired development zone, out towards SH 130 and more dense housing in our urban core. Even though we are seeing an improvement in our economy we as City must still make sure that we maintain our quality of life and keep investing in infrastructure, transportation solution, and find more ways to partner with our development community to keep building. I want to make sure that we do not unnecessarily burden homeowners with fees and taxes that do not add value to their investment. I also want to find more ways to work with the middle-income residents in our city and use bond dollars to invest in our TOD's and downtown areas for ways to buy down market rate development and so our middle-income citizens can participate in our affordable housing program.

**5. SMD's (courtesy of CAAAD and CAPD)**

**Do you support an all at-large system, a hybrid system, or an all-district system plus an at-large mayor? Please explain. (250 word limit)**

I have maintained that I will support putting the charter amendments up for a vote in November. The community as a whole needs to determine our system of government. I see pros and cons to an at large system and a single member system but support the work of the Charter Commission and their deliberation to offer a system that we can vote on in November.

**6. Election Dates (courtesy of St. Ed's Democrats) (250 word limit total)**

**a.) Yes or no: do you support putting a charter amendment on the November 2012 ballot to move Austin's municipal elections from May to November?**

I have maintained that I will support putting the charter amendments up for a vote in November.

**b.) Do you personally support moving the Austin municipal elections from May to November? Why or why not?**

While I personally am still weighing the pros and cons of changing our municipal election dates. The real issue for me is protecting the voting rights of the community and ensuring that our election process is carried out in accordance with the Austin City charter.

**Shaun Ireland – Candidate for Place 6**

**Section I: Political Participation**

**1. Do you self-identify as a Democrat? Why? (250 word limit)**

I've been a democrat all my life. I wasn't old enough to vote for Gore in 2000, but I have voted in every contested Democratic Primary since. In the spring of 2005 I have the privilege of meeting Governor Dean at a book signing in New York City. Someone asked him about voter turnout amongst young adults. He replied that though it was higher than in 2000, it was still terribly low. Then he spoke about citizenship. He said that in the United States, if there was a report card for Citizenship, "voting" gets you a C-, its a base passing grade, because "voting" is the least that is asked of an American. However, if you want an A+ as an American, you have to run for office, if you have an idea or an issue that is important to you, or if you think you can do a better job "then you are required to put your name on the ballot". I've carried these words with me for the past 7 years. I see problems and opportunities that are not being addressed here in Austin, and as an American I feel required to take my message to the voters of Austin and give them an opportunity to hear new ideas.

**2. Voting History.**

**a.) Please mark the box for each election you have voted in. Note: voter history will be cross-checked with public voting records.**

	2011	2010	2009	2008	2006	2005	2004
Primary Election (indicate D or R)	n/a	R	n/a	D	D	n/a	D
Primary Run-off (indicate D or R)	n/a	R	n/a			n/a	n/a
Austin Municipal Election		n/a					n/a
Nov. General Election	Yes	D	Yes	D	I	Yes	D

**If you were voting in a county other than Travis, please tell us where and in what years.**

Nacogdoches Co, TX-2004-2006 2010. Cook Co, IL 08 primary. Harris Co, TX 08 General. Travis Co, TX 2011.

**b.) What was the first Presidential election you voted in? Who did you vote for, and why? (200 word limit)**

2004 was the first Presidential election I was eligible to vote in. I hadn't payed much attention to the Presidential race. Then I was handed a campaign pamphlet by Howard Dean's campaign. His message of civil liberties and stopping needless wars really got me interested in politics. I followed his campaign throughout 2004, even voting for him in the Texas primary despite his suspending of his campaign. It was unfortunate that he lost the primary, but in November I voted for the Kerry/Edwards ticket.

**3. Donor History. Please describe your donation history over the last 6 years to candidates, political parties, and non-profit organizations. If you have volunteered for candidates or causes, please detail that here as well. Lists are acceptable. (200 word limit):**

2006: Kinky Friedman(TX-Gov) \$120

2008: Barack Obama(Prez) \$500

Bill Richardson(Prez) \$50

Mark Begich(AK-Sen) \$100

Jeff Merkley (OR-Sen) \$25

2008: I campaigned for the Obama Campaign in Chicago. Donations, voter registration, & door knocking.

2010: Debra Medina(TX-Gov) \$100

2012: Dr. Ron Paul(Prez) \$750

I supported Dr. Ron Paul for the following reasons. 1) President Obama is uncontested 2) Dr. Paul has had a consistent message for 30 years of restoring civil liberties, sound money, stopping undeclared wars of convenience. That is a platform that desperately needs to take hold in the GOP and in the National Debate.

## Section II: Issues

### 1. Growth (*courtesy of Capital City Young Democrats*) (250 word limit total)

#### a.) Is Austin's population increasing?

Yes, Austin's population is rapidly rowing.

#### b.) What, in your mind, is the single most important thing for the City Council to do in order to manage Austin's population growth?

Install the infrastructure needed to handle the growth. Austin loses 4,000,000,000 Gallons of water a year due to leaks from crumbling water mains. Density cannot be achieved with crumbling water mains. In as sever a drought as we are in, it is critical that we address these issues. Funds from water bill utility payers should have been spent for the TOTAL replacement of Austin's water mains.

#### c.) Do you support increased density in Central Austin, namely the area bounded by 2222 to the north, Oltorf to the south, I-35 to the east, and MoPac to the west?

Yes.

#### d.) If yes to part c, what tools will you use to increase density? If no, why not?

Density for density's sake is not a plan. For example, on Barton Springs & Lamar there have been several condo/apartment developments (for density), however, the roads nearby aren't rehabilitated to handle these new residents. It's the same road as before just with 1,000 extra cars a day. Infrastructure must accompany any plans for urban density.

### 2. Power (*courtesy of Austin Environmental Democrats*) (250 word limit total)

#### a.) Do you support the movement to generate Austin's power from 100% coal-free sources?

Absolutely Yes.

#### b.) What is the best way to handle the City's stake in the Fayette Coal Plant? Pick one, explain your answer.

1. Do nothing.
2. Sell the plant.
3. Retain ownership; do not operate plant.
4. Other. (Please explain.)

The EPA also closed 4 coal-fired generators this year. Unfortunately there is no time or facilities to replace the lost energy load. This could lead to rolling blackout this summer. If summer 2012 is as brutal as 2011 was then Austin residents have much more to worry about than electric prices, they will need to worry about the more vulnerable the elderly and indigent loosing power all together. If it happens at 1pm on a day that's 104 outside, lives will be in serious jeopardy. Getting off coal is my goal. I definitely support it. Looking forward I would like to see more utilization of solar power. I would like to see private/public cooperation with Dell, Exxon, or Home Depot to provide small solar systems to needy homes. These won't be big enough to run a house on, but they will provide enough of a charge to keep the fridge and fan running. And keeping food fresh or a loved one cool during a blackout will be worth the effort. This could be expanded to include large solar arrays on top of AISD local high schools. The solar panels will keep schools open and functioning during blackouts and during the summer months when the schools are not in use they will provide much needed electricity into the city's grid.

**3. Diversity (courtesy of Capital Area Asian American Democrats) (250 word limit)**

**Asian-Americans are the fastest growing ethnic group in Austin's population by percentage. Will you support the adoption of a comprehensive language access policy for all City of Austin departments and services, along the lines of the ordinance adopted in San Francisco?**

This is defiantly an idea worth looking into. I do understand that language barriers are a real issue for thousands of Austinites. The best way to combat this would be to dramatically expand ESL (English as a second language) classes and services in Austin. Proficiency in English will not only help in times of crisis (calling 911) but will also open up Austin for those who might feel uncomfortable navigating or socializing in wholly English-speaking areas of Austin. This can be done in a very affordable way as well. Austin's Asian-American community is filled with skilled professionals who could volunteer to teach English. I would gladly support an effort to allow these classes to be held in public facilities.

**4. Housing (courtesy of Capital Area Progressive Democrats) (250 word limit total)**

**a.) What percentage of money in the upcoming 2012 City bond package should be dedicated to affordable housing, including PSH? Feel free to specify answers for a \$200M, \$300M, and \$400M bond, as the exact amount is yet to be determined.**

I don't know. Affordable housing is such a huge issue in Austin. In order to commit to an exact figure of funds to allocate I would need to see structural plans, input from the neighborhood, and what other pressing neighborhood needs also require funds.

**b.) In your opinion, what should be the City Council's commitment to providing affordable housing, and PSH in particular?**

It is solutions to I want the City Council to further look into. I would want guarantees that these facilities would go towards helping homeless Austinites and not attract homeless from other cities looking for assistance.

**5. SMD's (courtesy of CAAAD and CAPD)**

**Do you support an all at-large system, a hybrid system, or an all-district system plus an at-large mayor? Please explain. (250 word limit)**

Austin has become too diverse for the At-Large Council System. I support 10-1. Ten single member districts. The system is so broken that our African-American and Latino communities must rely on gentlemen's agreements and fight citywide just to have someone on the council. Our minority communities deserve the right to have their own district and choose from their neighbors, a champion to represent their unique issues in City Hall. But unrepresented communities are not all ethnic. I live in South Austin. Forty percent of Austin's population lives south of the River. We have urban sprawl, traffic, crumbling infrastructure, and bills to pay but not a single Councilmember lives in South Austin, North Austin, Oak Hill, Johnson Terrace, Allandale, Woodbridge, 78704, Jester Estates, etc. As a Councilman I would show the leadership needed to make geographic equality a reality.

**6. Election Dates (courtesy of St. Ed's Democrats) (250 word limit total)**

**a.) Yes or no: do you support putting a charter amendment on the November 2012 ballot to move Austin's municipal elections from May to November?**

YES!

**b.) Do you personally support moving the Austin municipal elections from May to November? Why or why not?**

Absolutely YES! I support the moving of City Elections to November of Presidential years. This would

*(message truncated in original)*