

<b>2024 AIA-Austin City Mayor &amp; Council Candidate Questionnaire</b>						PROVIDED BY AIA AUSTIN
Mayor / City Council Candidate Name: <b>Edwin Bautista</b>						
Council District Number: <b>7</b>						
ABOUT THIS QUESTIONNAIRE:						
<p><i>This questionnaire was prepared by the AIA Austin Advocacy Board, which aims to improve the quality of the built environment by promoting excellence in design, planning, and public policy. Its goal is to inform the public where council members and mayors stand on topics important to the city's future growth. Please fill out this questionnaire and provide any written responses as needed. There is no ranking system or response by the committee. The information provided will be compiled as filled out and shared with the public on the committee's webpage (<a href="https://aiaaustin.org/committees/advocacy/">https://aiaaustin.org/committees/advocacy/</a>).</i></p>						
PLEASE PROVIDE IN AN 'X' IN THE COLUMN THAT BEST REPRESENTS YOUR VIEW FOR THAT TOPIC. SPACE FOR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN THE LAST COLUMN. THERE IS NO LIMIT TO RESPONSE, ADJUST CELL SIZE FOR LENGTH						
TOPIC	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Additional Comments / Explanation:
<b>#1: GROWTH</b>						
Austin should address its rapid growth by allowing a diversity of multi-unit and "missing middle" housing types in all neighborhoods.	X					I generally support the recent initiatives by the Council to increase the local housing supply via HOME and eTODs but would like a greater emphasis on stronger anti-displacement measures and creative non market initiatives.
Austin should prioritize infrastructure investments based on the adopted Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan - Growth Map. Imagine Austin needs to be updated to reflect the significant growth and economic changes that have occurred over the past ten years.	X					As a certified urban planner, I enjoy reading comprehensive plan as much as I love creating them but I'm disappointed to see the CoA is falling short of the ambitious goals it has set. I understand urban planning and public policy are not mutually exclusive and will work tirelessly to ensure the CoA is best positioned to not only meet, but exceed the ambitious goals it has set.
Austin should coordinate and integrate equitable access to community resources (public facilities, healthcare, healthy food, frequent/accessible transit) into all short- and long-term growth policies.	X					
The city should revisit its small area planning methods and use it as a tool for developing Imagine Austin's "complete communities."	X					
<b>#2: AFFORDABILITY</b>						
Austin should prioritize the preservation and creation of small, local businesses in its economic development efforts.	X					
Austin should preserve and create market-rate and income restricted affordable housing, as defined in the Austin Strategic Housing Blueprint, through partnerships between the private development community and public funding.		X				There's been an over production of market-rate units at the high end of the MFI scale therefore the Council needs to focus on creating deeply affordable housing and non market options like cooperative housing. The CoA also needs to streamline the various density bonus programs and extend the required 40-year SMART housing program period. The Council needs to focus on creating more local policies like Affordability Unlocked and VMU.
Affordable housing should be provided in all areas of the city and not be restricted to certain locations.	X					
Austin should continue to advocate for infill housing density, and support ordinances that make developing on smaller lots easier for Austinites.	X					
<b>#3: DENSITY</b>						
Austin should prioritize mixed use (residential & commercial) development along transit corridors & hubs.	X					
Austin should evaluate existing Neighborhood Plans to ensure consistency with Imagine Austin's "complete communities."	X					
Austin should invest in infrastructure that encourages development within the city limits rather than the ETJ.	X					
Austin's Density Bonus Program could be more effective and better utilized.	X					
Austin should rethink its approach to Neighborhood Plans to ensure that all parts of the City adhere to principles of environmental protection, social equity and economic opportunity.	X					As someone that has lived in West Campus, Crestview and Highland and held leadership positions in neighborhood associations, I know the majority of the neighborhood plans are outdated and do not reflect the contemporary reality of Austin.
<b>#4: ZONING &amp; REGULATIONS</b>						
Austin should prioritize the preservation of neighborhood character over the creation of market-rate and income-restricted affordable housing units.			X			There's no doubt Austin is a special place and I strongly believe that's because of the natural environment as well as the built environment, some of which has been preserved due its historical significance. I respect the local culture of our city and, if elected, will work tirelessly to craft creative solutions that promote equitable development.
Austin should continue to create density within 1/2 mile of core transit corridors to support of multi-modal transportation.	X					1/4 mile may be more appropriate for inner-urban areas.
Austin can improve the quality of life and health outcomes of its residents with the provision of high-quality public spaces and placemaking in support of increased residential density.	X					
Austin should provide public funding and/or public/private funding to create better pedestrian-friendly streets with sidewalks, street trees, seating, and integrated stormwater management systems.	X					
Austin should provide accessible and pedestrian-friendly public spaces (streets, plazas, parks) when evaluating its underutilized public resources, such as surplus land and underutilized buildings.	X					The CoA needs more accessible third spaces and it's unfortunate that the city does not have a great history of creating or maintaining public spaces. Thankfully, there are numerous local organizations that have had more success. If elected, I will continue to support local organizations by working to increase funding and future partnerships that improve our third spaces.
Austin should create additional development incentives that encourage projects with more public benefits, such as pedestrian-friendly streets, plazas, courtyards, & parks.	X					
<b>#6: ENVIRONMENT</b>						
Austin should incentivize water conservation practices, such as rainwater collection and reuse, a/c condensate harvesting and reuse, and low-irrigation use landscapes, through financial incentives and rebate programs.	X					
Austin should continue to advocate for and enforce local tree protection and preservation ordinances in order to preserve one of the great natural assets in our community.	X					
Austin should incentivize and help fund renewable energy (solar and wind) and resource recovery (recycling and composting) for both commercial and residential customers.	X					
Austin should provide incentives for homeowners and developers to install green roof systems because of their many environmental benefits, including stormwater reduction, habitat creation and heat island reduction.	X					
<b>#7: MOBILITY</b>						
Austin should prioritize implementation of the Green Infrastructure Resolution calling for street trees in rights-of-way to encourage non-SOV modes of transportation.	X					
Austin should support local and regional investments in multi-modal transit system that reduces the need for vehicular travel.	X					I fully support the implementation of Project Connect.
Austin should integrate transit & land use planning to effectively support access to transit.	X					I support the recent eTOD policy but have <a href="#">reservations</a> about the planning mechanisms that were used.
Austin should pair transit stations & hubs with walkable communities.	X					