

**TEXAS ENVIRONMENTAL DEMOCRATS, AUSTIN CHAPTER
ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE**

Candidate's name: [Randi Shade](#)

Running for: [Austin City Council Place 3](#)

Are you a member of Texas Environmental Democrats of Austin (y/n)? [Yes](#)

List other significant past and current environmental group affiliations and memberships which would be meaningful to our members:

[Co-Founder, Austin Clean Energy Initiative; Austin Parks Foundation donor and volunteer; Neighborhood Park Committee Co-Chair](#)

1) If elected to office, would you commit to implementing and funding a "zero-waste" program to eliminate or greatly reduce our need for landfills?

[Yes.](#)

2) Do you believe a new landfill on land the city owns near Webberville is necessary or do you think the city can reduce waste enough to avoid building it?

[I don't have enough information yet to say for sure whether and/or when we will need a new landfill, but there is an obvious relationship here between our success at implementing a zero-waste initiative and the necessity of investing in future municipal infrastructure like landfills. Wherever possible, I'd rather be successful at conservation and waste reduction efforts. To achieve success, however, we will need to do a lot more than we've been doing to ensure public outreach and broad community involvement in all implementation plans. Without convenience and public awareness no waste reduction program will succeed to the extent necessary.](#)

3) Do you believe nuclear power is an appropriate power generation technology for Austin Energy to invest in?

[I am against the City's involvement in the expansion of the South Texas Nuclear Plant, and supported the City Council's decision not to pursue it. Until science and industry create a safe and cost-effective way to generate nuclear energy, I am opposed to it.](#)

4) How would you implement and fund Mayor Wynn's Climate Protection Plan over the next three years?

I'm not certain what the funding requirements of implementing the plan are ultimately going to be, since, as I understand it, most of the plan is still in the realm of establishing goals rather than committing to firm strategies. I think, however, the plan is important for our community and an important model for cities across the nation, I support its implementation, and I will support identifying funding sources sufficient to achieve that end. Just as I said earlier, to achieve success, however, we will need to do a lot more than we've been doing to ensure public outreach and broad community involvement in all implementation plans. I will be a strong advocate for both.

5) If elected to office would you support Envision Central Texas's goal of building density in the center city as opposed to over the aquifer? How would you achieve neighborhood buy-in for this infill?

Yes, absolutely, I strongly support the vision of facilitating greater density in Austin's central city and urban areas across the region while preserving as much open space as possible. To accomplish that, I think we need to reboot the neighborhood planning process to make it more inclusive and predictable, so that neighbors don't feel they have been duped after participating in the process, and to help put neighborhood-level decisions in a broader, regional context. I am also advocating increases in the availability of training, planning, research, and survey tools so that all neighborhoods have equal opportunity for success.

6) Do you support the latest modification (redevelopment overlay) to the Save Our Springs ordinance? Why?

Yes. If elected to the City Council I will be a consistent advocate for the strict enforcement of the SOS ordinance and will work with the rest of the City Council and the community at large to advance policies that result in the net reduction of pollutants flowing into the Barton Springs watershed. Given the current circumstances we face, I believe the new redevelopment overlay offers some possibility of slowing down the sprawl and rapid development in Western Travis County that has leap-frogged the Oak Hill area by allowing controlled redevelopment in this area – an area that would otherwise never improve and would even get worse. The net effect is an on-site reduction in the pollutant load through improved water quality controls,

as well as contributions to a fund to help preserve additional open space and water quality lands. In other words, the overlay represents improved water quality and helps protect our environment. It fits within the context of what we face today even if it isn't where we hoped we'd be 16 years ago when we passed the SOS ordinance.

7. How should the city deal with the problem of undeveloped site plans and partially built subdivisions grandfathered from current city water quality ordinances?

Without legal options the most important tool the City has is the bully pulpit. We should do everything we can to educate citizens and involve them in the achievement of better solutions that protect our environment. Public will can go along way, but it can only work if we involve rather than alienate people. We must also continue to explore ways to use the legal system where we can and continue our efforts to purchase land so we can control its destiny.

8. What is your position on the construction of SH 45 over sensitive aquifer protection land?

I am against it.

9. Do you support TxDOT's plan for a six-lane elevated tollway with six frontage road lanes through the 'Y' in Oak Hill? Will you fight for the community-supported alternative, fix290.org?

I have not yet seen a workable model for fix290's alternative and do not believe it has the broad community support this question suggests it has. I will fight alongside many citizens involved in the tollway build-out plan to ensure the achievement of transparency, maximum environmental protection, and equitable distribution of any revenue generated.

10. Do you believe the current "stakeholder notification" system for site plan submissions and modifications gives stakeholders all the background information they need to understand the environmental effects of a development? What information would you add?

There is much room for improvement as the current system merely notifies registered associations and neighbors within 300 feet of the property that a case has been submitted. Then there's a case manager and phone number provided. The plan and reviewer comments, including environmental impact findings, are public information, but it is a very onerous task for

interested citizens to keep up with the process even though efforts to make information available especially online seem to be improving. In terms of environmental effects, I would explore ways for the environmental reviewer comments to be provided throughout the process, at the expense of the site plan submitter, and as a matter of policy I believe that City staff should be instructed to encourage developers (even single family home-owners) to dialogue with their neighbors before submitting a site plan and to provide interested parties with the same information they provide the City.

11. What is your vision for the Waller Creek Tunnel Project?

I think the Waller Creek tunnel project offers an important economic development opportunity for the east side of downtown as well as for near east Austin. With the tunnel complete and the floodplain mitigated, I hope to see new development happen adjacent to and nearby Waller Creek that is in keeping with the character and culture of Austin and that contributes in a positive, sustainable way to our economy and community.

Based on what you know today, do you believe global warming is caused in significant part by human activities?

Yes.

If you have relevant links to articles on the internet or your campaign site, please provide them here:

<http://www.randishade.com/148/growth.htm#Environment>