

Candidate Name: Jimmy Flannigan
Seeking: Reelection for Austin City Council District 6
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1) Given what will likely be typical silence from the State of Texas, and the host of other challenges Council must address, how important is it to you that Austin take meaningful action to combat the climate crisis next year? What do you propose the city should do?

It is absolutely critical that Austin continue its national leadership on climate efforts. I'm proud to serve on a city council that has set aggressive climate goals and made bold decisions on energy, transportation, zero waste, open space, and even a local commitment to the Green New Deal. I have supported our Austin Community Climate Plan, the Austin Energy Generation Plan, the Austin Strategic Mobility Plan, our zero waste goals and composting initiatives, as well as the divestment from the Fayette Coal Plant and increased investment in renewable energy sources such as wind and solar.

The three biggest ways I believe Austin can fight climate change immediately are by being aggressive in the areas of:

- Energy – Continued aggressive investment renewable energy and energy efficiency
- Transportation – Invest in Project Connect and continue implementation of the Austin Strategic Mobility plan to enhance single-occupancy vehicle alternatives
- Land Use – Smarter Land Use Planning that allows for a more compact and connected community

It is also critical that the city have a strong regional perspective on these issues. In my leadership roles on CAPCOG and CAMPO, I have been a champion for building more robust electric and public transportation options through Project Connect and other regional transportation solutions. Reducing reliance on single-occupancy-vehicles through providing robust alternatives is a key component of reducing the city's carbon footprint.

My district is home to some of the most important environmental areas of the city including the Balcones Canyonland Preserve, Lake Travis, parts of Lake Austin, and many waterways that are part of our drinking water watershed. I take environmental protection very seriously; what we do in District 6 matters to the entire region.

2) The lack of federal leadership on COVID-19 has deepened many preexisting inequalities. As a city, what do we need to do to ensure we build back better?

It is no secret that Austin is the most economically segregated city in the country and addressing this requires strong resolve on the policy areas where I have been leading. I have strongly advocated for allowing affordable housing all across the city, investing in workforce development, ensuring a well-functioning social safety net, and equitable infrastructure that serves our entire community. I am proud of the work the council has done during the pandemic – acting quickly to implement emergency public health measures, increasing investments in public health resources, and facilitating collaboration across the health ecosystem. But this pandemic will end and we must continue the work so that our economic recovery does not just benefit those at the top. As we tackle these challenges, we must do so through an equity lens and one that ensures we acknowledge history and do not repeat our past injustices.

3) If elected to the city council, what will you do to ensure that every Austin resident has access to safe, stable shelter?

The overarching principles that I've embraced are that we strive to build all types of housing for all types of people at all income levels, all across the city. This includes reforming the old and outdated rules around growth and land development, where I have been a leading voice. I have also supported continued investment in affordable housing and regulatory incentives like "Affordability Unlocked" which is generating thousands of new income-restricted units at little to no cost to the taxpayer.

And we must ensure that we have built a robust system to help our neighbors that experience housing insecurity. The council has made significant investments in this system including: workforce development and rapid rehousing services to help folks avoid homelessness, new investments in family and veteran shelter, and historic investments in permanent supportive housing for those facing the biggest hurdles to self-sufficiency. Only through this comprehensive system can we ensure the resources necessary for the proper intervention at the right moment to help reduce the scale of the problem in our city.

4) Recent protests have underscored just how many people don't feel safe when contacting the authorities. What concrete steps does council need to take to ensure all Austinites are safe in our city? On what timeline?

As chair of the council's public safety committee, I am leading on this effort to ensure Austin remains the safest major city in America and that all residents feel safe in our city. The public safety reimagining process will help ensure we are investing in the types of solutions that prevent crime at its root cause, not just services that come out after a crime has been committed. With racial justice and equity at top of mind, we can build a

better system with nonviolent solutions like integral care and better mental health first response, and continue to innovate new solutions that can be more cost effective and better scale for our growing community.