



RECA
REAL ESTATE COUNCIL
OF AUSTIN

2020 General Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Lon A. Shell

Office Sought: Hays County Commissioner, Pct 3

Political Affiliation: Republican

Candidate's Website (if applicable): www.votelonshell.com

Why are you running for this position?

I have served as the pct 3 Commissioner for 3 years and previously served as the County's Chief of Staff for 7 years. I truly love my County and this region and believe we need strong leaders in order to meet our potential while preserving our high quality of life.

What do you believe are the three most critical issues facing Travis County and why?

For Hays County, managing our extreme growth responsibly so that our citizens can maintain a high quality of life and have access to high quality jobs. To do this we must provide meaningful transportation solutions on the corridor and a high level of public safety, while preserving our character. In western Hays County we must make sure our natural resources are protected for future generations.

If elected, what other items would you like to accomplish while in office?

Continue to work within our region on transportation solutions and continue to work towards innovative ideas regarding development in western Hays County that will protect our natural resources.

How would you describe your position as it relates to balancing the needs of new job creation and big development projects, with the big problems of traffic congestion, cost of living, and affordability?

New job creation is a priority for a growing area like central Texas. Though we work hard every day on economic development, it must not be done alone. It must be accompanied with transportation planning that will provide mobility and safety solutions as our workforce grows and the development of responsible development regulations that provide housing opportunities while protecting our natural resources. These solutions will require regional participation.

Do you believe that Title 30 (Travis County/City of Austin Subdivision Code for ETJ) needs to be updated?

Yes

If you answered "Yes" to question #13, what would you want to see updated in Title 30?

My answer regarding Title 30, is with respect to Hays County. I believe local government regulations must be periodically reviewed in order to address the changing market and development patterns. Regulations must be fair and predictable while performing their main goals.

If you answered "No" to question #13, what do you like about Title 30?

One of RECA's top areas of focus has been to improve the overall permitting process to make it more predictable for everyone. Please outline any specific policies you will work on while in office.

As our region grows there will be increased needs to streamline processes. Improved coordination among local regulatory authorities and jurisdictions must become a priority.

What specific policies would you support to address our severe housing shortage and the rising cost to construct and produce housing?

Hays County has seen an increase in housing supplies along the corridor. The cities along the corridor must continue to work on capital improvements for infrastructure that supports the desired products for their communities.

What is your position on Project Connect?

Though not a resident of Austin, I am aware of Project Connect. Though I do not have a specific position, I do support efforts to provide multiple forms of transportation along the corridor.

What other measures would you support to improve current and future mobility throughout our city?

All of the jurisdictions in the region benefit from improved mobility along the IH-35 corridor. We should work together to identify multiple forms and methods of improvements.

Do you support the expansion and improvement of major roadways and highways in our region such as IH-35, US 183, and 360?

Yes

How do you think RECA or the business community should play a productive role in our city?

By working collaboratively with the State and local governments I believe RECA can promote responsible and sustainable solutions to the challenges presented by our extreme growth. Central Texas is a great place, RECA can work alongside other regional partners to make sure we grow in a way that preserves the very qualities that make us want to live here.