



**RECA**  
REAL ESTATE COUNCIL  
OF AUSTIN

## 2020 General Election Candidate Questionnaire

**Candidate Name:** Andy Brown

**Office Sought:** Travis County Judge

**Political Affiliation:** Democrat

**Candidate's Website (if applicable):** [www.voteandy.com](http://www.voteandy.com)

### **Why are you running for this position?**

I have proven experience bringing people together and building coalitions to achieve progressive public policy change. I've taken an idea through from start to finish, and have collaborated with people at the City and County and the State to create something that benefits our community -- The Sobering Center. Now it's up and running and we've already been able to divert around 4000 people away from entering into the criminal justice system altogether because of the sobering center. I look forward to building a coalition to implement fundamental change to build on that success, increase investment in mental health and behavioral health services, and reform our criminal justice system.

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

Developing an economic recovery plan to recover from the effects of COVID, criminal justice reform, and improving access to healthcare and housing. So let's build coalitions for more permanent supportive housing, better healthcare, and better addiction recovery. Let's support more housing and supportive housing. Affordable housing is an equity, environmental, and safety issue. Too many Travis County residents can no longer afford to live here and many don't have basic services they need.

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

The rate of COVID hospitalization in the Latino and African American populations of Travis County is unacceptably higher than among other groups. We need to take a look at the COVID map, because it is instructive. The populations most affected by COVID have many other healthcare disparities as well. We must reverse these trends and increase our healthcare investment in high-latino and high-african american population areas like Del Valle, Colony Park and Austin's Colony.

We have incredible challenges due to climate change and development. We need to better plan for increased fire, drought and flooding. We also have to conserve land, protect our environment and reduce our emissions as a region.

### **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?**

There's a problem. We have terrible traffic. And too many accidents and deaths. On roads in Travis County, let's make safety improvements, figure out choke points and fix those issues, improve sidewalks, and create sidewalks where they don't exist. Building roads isn't all of it. It's also reducing demands, better organizing intersections, shifting modes of transportation, and increasing options for alternative modes of transportation. We can't let CAMPO take away dollars needed to help improve transportation safety at the local level.

Our county budget is a moral document. It reflects our priorities as a community. The county budget currently has our jail as the largest line item expenditure. As your County Judge my number one goal will be to shift your tax dollars to the priorities you want us to invest in, improving our communities health, protecting our environment, and building smart infrastructure.

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

I need to review this issue further.

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

**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.**

I understand that the County permitting process takes longer than many involved want it to. I am ready to work with County staff, Commissioners, and others to improve the system.

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

I will work with the County's ability to promote affordable housing through partnerships, the City of Austin, and other creative solutions.

**What is your position on Project Connect?**

I support Project Connect.

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

Travis County is addicted to single occupancy vehicle trips. If we ever want to deal with congestion, air pollution, carbon emissions and the grinding alienating rage caused by a long commute through stagnant traffic people need options for how to travel. The City of Austin and Cap Metro are making a major investment into mass transit and that's a great start. We should work to make a transit plan that can move people across the city truly accessible throughout the region. That means people need options. Whether it's a safe path for bikes and electric mobility devices, a park and ride with a shuttle that connects to Austin's system or services that allow vanpooling to the city we have to make sure

that everyone has transportation options that are easy to access and don't take in depth study or hours of preparation. We have to find and eliminate the gaps in our transportation infrastructure that make trips by alternate methods unsafe. I know that people in Travis County are willing to get around in different ways than they do now, but we've let our infrastructure become unsafe and inaccessible for many of us. That needs to change.

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

I don't have a yes or no answer for this.

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

Working with local government to help our most vulnerable and essential workers get through COVID, improve the economy as we do so, and support reforms at the county level that improve life for everyone- from investing in mental and behavioral health outside of the jail, to increasing affordable housing, to looking at innovative solutions across the board.