



2020 General Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate: Greg Casar

Office Seeking: City Council District 4

Political Affiliation: Democratic Party

Candidate's Website:

Why are you running for this position?

District 4 is home to the working people of Austin. It is the city's lowest income district, the most immigrant district, amongst the hardest hit by COVID-19, and it's the district with the most young children in the city. I believe that the true success and the future of Austin should be judged on the success and well-being of people in places like District 4. I believe in being an advocate for people across the city, while recognizing the real inequalities that we face in Austin.

What do you believe are the three most critical issues facing the City of Austin, and why?

-An inclusive and successful COVID-19 recovery -Major policy shifts on affordability and transportation to make our city more accessible to people of all backgrounds -Comprehensive community safety including improved mental health community response, housing thousands more people experiencing homelessness, new family violence shelter, a complete revamp of APD training, etc.

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

I am looking forward to rewriting our land development code, addressing our transit needs through Project Connect and the 2016 Mobility Bond, creating thousands of affordable housing units, improving equity in parkland, child care, and health, and ensuring we protect civil rights and public safety for all Austinites.

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 developments can have a substantial impact on communities. As a City Council Member, I always look for opportunities for developments to good jobs for those who need it most, improved infrastructure, and affordable housing for middle class and working class Austinites. Rapid development that is pushed outside of the city limits strains our infrastructure without providing the tax base for us to

provide services to everyone who lives and works in Austin. So I think it's critical that we try to bring our jobs, housing, and development inside of the city to reduce vehicle miles traveled, protect the environment, support public transportation, and make our community more efficient and connected.

Do you believe that our Land Development Code needs to be updated?

Yes

If you answered "Yes" to question #13, what would you want to see updated in our land development code?

I am dedicated to passing a new code that meets our housing needs, allows small businesses to succeed, and creates a process that improves our environmental protections, infrastructure, and open space. We need simplified rules and a code that doesn't impede our goals in Imagine Austin.

If you answered "No" to question #13, what do you like about our existing code?

One of RECA's top areas of focus has been to improve the overall permitting process to make it more predictable for everyone. Please indicate any specific policies you have worked on (or will work on) while in office related to improving efficiencies in the permitting process.

I am committed to passing a new land development code. I am supportive of a limited site plan process for missing middle housing and affordable housing. I support ensuring clarity in our code for the permitting process and rule making process so that expectations are clear and predictable. I believe in transparency and accountability related to our goals on permitting times.

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

The land development code rewrite will help undo many of the needless barriers toward having enough housing in the city. This is one of the most comprehensive ways for us to deal with barriers to sufficient housing. I also on important, but incremental changes to our Code, such as the passage of Affordability Unlocked and ADU reforms.

What is your position on Project Connect?

I strongly support Project Connect and Prop A.

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

I supported the 2016 Mobility Bond, which will bring much needed investment to our roads, sidewalks, bike lanes, and trails. I support better connectivity and safer streets. I was proud to support the ASMP which set ambitious goals for Austin's mobility.

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

No

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

I believe RECA has served as an important resource for information on such a major and multi-faceted industry in our city. We need to be able to leverage our resources and expertise to address our housing needs, infrastructure, and economic development.