



## 2020 General Election Candidate Questionnaire

**Candidate Name:** Sheryl Cole

**Office Sought:** Representative, House District 46

**Political Affiliation:** Democrat

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

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

I have always believed in serving my community. I believe the best way for me to do that right now is as Representative of House District 46.

### **What do you believe are the three most critical issues facing the State of Texas and why?**

Redistricting, criminal justice reform, and COVID relief. These issues effect millions of Texans and weigh imminently on our state. We are certain to take them up in the next biennium.

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

HD 46 is not unique in terms of being drastically affected by redistricting, criminal justice reform, and COVID. The pandemic has truly laid bare and exacerbated many existing inequalities that we must address.

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

I intend to represent my district as effectively as possible, moving the ball forward wherever I can. I hope, for example, there will be follow-up legislation to HB 3, to ensure we keep our gains made on education funding and recapture.

### **What do you believe is the role of the state in overseeing cities and counties, especially in regard to land use (zoning, permitting, etc)?**

Having served on Austin City Council, I have some strong opinions on this subject! Broadly speaking, on many of these issues, I believe in local control, as a one-size-fits-all approach wouldn't work for many Texas cities and counties. I also strongly oppose unfunded mandates passed down by the state. And, lastly, I strongly oppose the tax caps imposed by SB 2 - I believe local governments should have control over the tools they need for planning and services.

**Cities and Counties are authorized by the state to create a number of citizen-led boards and commissions. One of these boards is the Board of Adjustment, whose two primary objectives are to**

**review and hear appeals to certain land-use decisions and make determinations for a variance to the code. In the past several years, it has become much more difficult for property owners to be granted variances due to the lack of clarity surrounding the term "hardship." Would you support legislation to provide better clarity in the Board of Adjustment variance process to make it more predictable?**

Yes

**Additional Comments (Optional)**

The specifics of the legislation would matter, of course, but in general, yes, I support transparency and clarity in government.

**Some of our most valued treasures in Texas are the many historic sites and structures across our state. In Texas, cities are authorized by the state to designate structures as historic, including without landowner consent (requires a supermajority). However, when a historic district (multiple properties) is being formed, there is no remedy for an individual property owner to oppose being pulled into the historic district. In most instances if an individual property owner opposes being designated historic as part of a district it only requires a majority vote to create the district. Would you support legislation that defines a clear process for property owners to oppose being included in a historic district?**

Yes.

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

I support both Propositions A and B.

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

This answer would apply to questions 16, 17, and 18: when it comes to transportation, transit, and otherwise getting our residents moving across town, I take an "all of the above" stance. Bus, bike, rail, scooter, rideshare, sidewalks - all of these are important parts of getting people where they need to be. Our infrastructure is far from perfect, and I strongly support continued investment and innovation.

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

Yes

**Why or why not? (Explanation of Position)**