



2020 General Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Vikki Goodwin

Office Sought: Texas House District 47

Political Affiliation: Democrat

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

Why are you running for this position?

To support public education, ensure access to affordable health care for all, work on transportation issues, and to protect the environment.

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

At this time, the three most critical issues are the state budget, redistricting and solving racial tensions. We must continue our investment in public education, health care and infrastructure (broadband and roads). We can't afford to make drastic cuts. Businesses rely on a healthy, educated population for both the workforce and for customers. Expanding Medicaid in Texas is important for our health care system, and for bringing dollars to the state to cover health care expenses that become more expensive when routine doctor visits are delayed until a health crisis. Redistricting has to happen after the census, and will determine the balance of power in the state for the next decade. If we don't solve the racial tensions through criminal justice reform and equity in education, health care and economic opportunity, we will continue to see disruption caused by unrest.

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

Three critical issues are school funding, transportation funding and racial tensions. School leaders are concerned about the sustainability of HB3 without a change to revenue sources, and any decrease in funding will mean a decrease in teachers, which would be detrimental to our school system. While traffic congestion has eased due to COVID, roads and infrastructure have not kept up with the rapid growth in Western Travis County. While the district is predominantly anglo, there are more and more people of color in Western Travis County and racial tensions are high as exhibited by a call for the firing of a school principal over racial issues.

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

I hope to pass a law requiring high school students to take a personal financial literacy course (HB 1182 passed the House last session but didn't pass the Senate). As a member of the Urban Affairs Committee, I hope to work on issues around affordable housing. As a member of the Homeland Security and Public Safety Committee, I hope to work on universal background checks for gun purchases.

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

I believe in local control and allowing cities to make rules around zoning and permitting.

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)

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?

It is up to voters to decide if they are willing to support Project Connect. I do not personally live in the city of Austin, so do not have a vote on this issue.

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

I am in favor of a regional mobility plan that includes more circulator routes. CapMetro serves very little of HD47 and yet there is great need for workers to have a way to get to the many businesses in the district.

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)

The population growth has outpaced the infrastructure. I advocated for SH45 in SW Austin, and am in favor of the improvements at the Y in Oak Hill. I am also in favor of the widening of 620, and was disappointed when funding was pulled from the project to go to IH35. I understand IH35 needs the work, too, but the Mayor and residents of Lakeway are very upset.