

His Senate record also covers health, grid, budget, school, and criminal-law measures.

Money and political ties: Use the latest Texas Ethics Commission report. Note major donors, candidate loans, groups that spend for or against the candidate, and any business interest tied to the office.

Voter Considerations: Ask which current lawsuits he would keep, end, or change, and how he would protect consumers and child-support services.

Tom Oxford — Libertarian

Who the candidate is: Libertarian candidate. A full current biography and public-office record were not confirmed.

Service and term status: No current elected term was confirmed. If elected, he would serve four years; Texas sets no term limit.

Platform detail not confirmed: This profile does not assign issue positions from the candidate's party label. Direct, current campaign statements are still needed.

Public record: No Texas legislative voting record was confirmed.

Accomplishments and record to date: No completed legislative or legal-agency result was confirmed. Ask for legal, management, and consumer-protection experience.

Money and political ties: Use the latest Texas Ethics Commission report. Note major donors, candidate loans, groups that spend for or against the candidate, and any business interest tied to the office.

Voter Considerations: Ask how he would manage a large legal agency and decide when Texas should sue.

Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

What the office does: The comptroller collects state taxes, estimates how much money Texas can spend, and checks state finances.

Why it matters to you: The official revenue estimate can limit how much lawmakers may budget for schools, health care, roads, prisons, and other services. The office also affects tax collection and public information about state contracts and spending.

Term and term limits: The term is four years. The Texas Constitution sets no limit on the number of terms for this office, so an eligible officeholder may keep seeking reelection.

Don Huffines — Republican

Who the candidate is: Businessman and former Texas senator.

Service and term status: Texas senator from 2015 to 2019; not currently a legislator. If elected comptroller, he would serve four years; Texas sets no term limit.

Main ideas: Lower spending, audits, tax limits, and conservative control of state money.

Public record: His earlier Senate record includes tax, budget, and local-control votes. He is not now a legislator.

Accomplishments and record to date: His completed public record is his earlier Senate service, including tax, budget, transportation, and local-control votes. Claims about savings or tax effects should be tied to a bill, fiscal note, and final outcome.

Money and political ties: Use the latest Texas Ethics Commission report. Note major donors, candidate loans, groups that spend for or against the candidate, and any business interest tied to the office.

Voter Considerations: Ask which programs he would audit and how he would make revenue estimates free from politics.

Sarah Eckhardt — Democrat

Who the candidate is: Texas senator, lawyer, and former Travis County judge, the county's top elected manager.

Service and term status: Texas senator since July 2020; Travis County judge from 2015 to 2020; county commissioner from 2006 to 2013; earlier an assistant county attorney. If elected comptroller, she would serve four years; Texas sets no term limit.

Main ideas: Open records, review of vouchers and no-bid contracts, fair taxes, and careful use of public money.

Public record: She has voted on state budgets and taxes in the Senate. As county judge, she also worked on county budgets, debt, roads, and public health.

Accomplishments and record to date: Her official Senate biography cites emergency response, health care, workforce development, criminal justice, water, transportation, and budget work. As a county official, her record included budgets and debt, preservation of more than 30,000 acres of green space, a public-defender office, and diversion programs. These were countywide team results, not work by one person alone.

Money and political ties: Use the latest Texas Ethics Commission report. Note major donors, candidate loans, groups that spend for or against the candidate, and any business interest tied to the office.

Voter Considerations: Ask how her county record would guide statewide tax estimates and audits.

V. Alonzo Echavarria-Garza — Libertarian

Who the candidate is: Libertarian candidate. A full current biography was not confirmed.

Service and term status: No current elected term was confirmed. If elected comptroller, he would serve four years; Texas sets no term limit.

Platform detail not confirmed: This profile does not assign issue positions from the candidate's party label. Direct, current campaign statements are still needed.

Public record: No Texas legislative voting record was confirmed.

Accomplishments and record to date: No completed public-finance or administrative result was confirmed. Ask for accounting, tax, audit, and large-budget experience.

Money and political ties: Use the latest Texas Ethics Commission report. Note major donors, candidate loans, groups that spend for or against the candidate, and any business interest tied to the office.

Voter Considerations: Ask what training he has in accounting, finance, tax law, or large-agency management.

Shehla Faizi — Green

Who the candidate is: Green Party candidate. A full current biography was not confirmed.

Service and term status: No current elected term was confirmed. If elected comptroller, she would serve four years; Texas sets no term limit.

Platform detail not confirmed: This profile does not assign issue positions from the candidate's party label. Direct, current campaign statements are still needed.

Public record: No Texas legislative voting record was confirmed.

Accomplishments and record to date: No completed public-finance or administrative result was confirmed. Ask for accounting, tax, audit, and large-budget experience.

Money and political ties: Use the latest Texas Ethics Commission report. Note major donors, candidate loans, groups that spend for or against the candidate, and any business interest tied to the office.

Voter Considerations: Ask how she would make the revenue estimate and protect the office from party pressure.

Texas General Land Office Commissioner

What the office does: The land commissioner manages state land, oil and gas income for schools, coastal work, disaster grants, veterans programs, and the Alamo.

Why it matters to you: The office can affect money for public schools, disaster-recovery speed, coastal protection, veterans' land programs, public land, energy leases, and care of the Alamo.

Term and term limits: The term is four years. The Texas Constitution sets no limit on the number of terms for this office, so an eligible officeholder may keep seeking reelection.

Dawn Buckingham — Republican

Who the candidate is: Current land commissioner, doctor, and former Texas senator.

Service and term status: Land commissioner since January 2023; previously a Texas senator. The office has a four-year term and no Texas term limit.

Main ideas: State land income, veterans, coastal projects, disaster recovery, and the Alamo.

Public record: Her agency record includes land leases and disaster programs. Her earlier Senate votes are in the official journals.

Accomplishments and record to date: The General Land Office under Buckingham administers school-land leases, coastal projects, veterans programs, the Alamo, and federal disaster grants. Measure results through audited revenue, homes or projects completed, grant speed, coastal work, and final contracts—not announcements alone.

Money and political ties: Use the latest Texas Ethics Commission report. Note major donors, candidate loans, groups that spend for or against the candidate, and any business interest tied to the office.

Voter Considerations: Ask about disaster-grant delays, coastal protection, oil-and-gas income, and public access to records.

Benjamin Flores — Democrat

Who the candidate is: Bay City Council member with local-government experience near the Texas coast.

Service and term status: Bay City Council member; exact local service dates should be confirmed. If elected land commissioner, he would serve four years; Texas sets no term limit.

Main ideas: Public lands, fair disaster aid, schools, coastal towns, and open government.

Public record: His public record is mainly local, not a Texas legislative roll call.

Accomplishments and record to date: His checkable record is mainly local. The guide should identify specific council votes, budgets, projects, and final outcomes rather than treating candidacy itself as an accomplishment.

Money and political ties: Use the latest Texas Ethics Commission report. Note major donors, candidate loans, groups that spend for or against the candidate, and any business interest tied to the office.

Voter Considerations: Ask what city votes best show how he would manage land, contracts, and disaster money.

Neill Snider — Libertarian

Who the candidate is: Libertarian candidate. A full current biography was not confirmed.

Service and term status: No current elected term was confirmed. If elected, he would serve four years; Texas sets no term limit.

Platform detail not confirmed: This profile does not assign issue positions from the candidate's party label. Direct, current campaign statements are still needed.

Public record: No Texas legislative voting record was confirmed.

Accomplishments and record to date: No completed land, veterans, coastal, or disaster-agency result was confirmed. Ask for relevant management and public-service work.

Money and political ties: Use the latest Texas Ethics Commission report. Note major donors, candidate loans, groups that spend for or against the candidate, and any business interest tied to the office.

Voter Considerations: Ask how he would balance private property, school income, beaches, energy, and public access.

Texas Commissioner of Agriculture

What the office does: The commissioner leads the Agriculture Department. It handles farm programs, weights and measures, school meals, and some consumer rules.

Why it matters to you: The Agriculture Department oversees commercial scales and other weights and measures, nutrition programs, agricultural support and pesticide regulation. Motor-fuel metering and quality oversight moved to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation; it should not be credited to today's agriculture commissioner.

Sources checked October 15, 2026: TDLR program transfer: <https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/news/2019/09/01/motor-fuels-program-moves-from-department-of-agriculture-to-tdlr/>

Term and term limits: The term is four years. The Texas Constitution sets no limit on the number of terms for this office, so an eligible officeholder may keep seeking reelection.

Nate Sheets — Republican

Who the candidate is: Beekeeper and business owner who defeated the sitting commissioner in the Republican primary.

Service and term status: No prior elected term was confirmed. If elected agriculture commissioner, he would serve four years; Texas sets no term limit.

Main ideas: Farm and ranch support, small business, agency efficiency, school meals, and conservative management.

Public record: No Texas legislative voting record was confirmed. His business work and campaign promises are the main record to review.

Accomplishments and record to date: His beekeeper and business experience is a professional record, not a legislative record. Ask for measurable business results, agriculture-policy work, and experience with food safety, school meals, and a statewide agency.

Money and political ties: Use the latest Texas Ethics Commission report. Note major donors, candidate loans, groups that spend for or against the candidate, and any business interest tied to the office.

Voter Considerations: Ask about drought, water, rural hospitals, food safety, pesticides, and school-meal rules.

Clayton Tucker — Democrat

Who the candidate is: Rancher and political organizer from rural Texas.

Service and term status: No prior elected term was confirmed. If elected agriculture commissioner, he would serve four years; Texas sets no term limit.

Main ideas: Family farms, rural jobs, water, land protection, and access to food.

Public record: No Texas legislative voting record was confirmed.

Accomplishments and record to date: His ranching and organizing work is an experience record, not a government voting record. Ask for completed rural, farm, labor, or food-access projects and documents that show results.

Money and political ties: Use the latest Texas Ethics Commission report. Note major donors, candidate loans, groups that spend for or against the candidate, and any business interest tied to the office.

Voter Considerations: Ask how he would pay for rural programs and enforce consumer and food-safety rules.

Austin R. Kelly — Libertarian

Who the candidate is: Libertarian candidate. A full current biography was not confirmed.

Service and term status: No prior elected term was confirmed. If elected, he would serve four years; Texas sets no term limit.

Platform detail not confirmed: This profile does not assign issue positions from the candidate's party label. Direct, current campaign statements are still needed.

Public record: No Texas legislative voting record was confirmed.

Accomplishments and record to date: No completed agriculture or agency-management result was confirmed. Ask for farm, ranch, food, inspection, or budget experience.

Money and political ties: Use the latest Texas Ethics Commission report. Note major donors, candidate loans, groups that spend for or against the candidate, and any business interest tied to the office.

Voter Considerations: Ask what farm, ranch, food, or management experience he would bring to the office.

Texas Railroad Commissioner

What the office does: The Railroad Commission does not regulate trains. It regulates oil, gas, pipelines, and some mining.

Why it matters to you: Its rules and inspections can affect gas leaks, water, air, abandoned wells, earthquakes tied to disposal wells, energy jobs, and who pays for cleanup.

Term and term limits: A railroad commissioner serves six years. The three seats are staggered so one is normally elected every two years. Texas sets no term limit for this office.

Bo French — Republican

Who the candidate is: Former chair of the Tarrant County Republican Party and a political organizer.

Service and term status: Former Tarrant County Republican Party chair; no legislative term was confirmed. A railroad commissioner serves six years and has no Texas term limit.

Main ideas: More oil and gas production, fewer rules, energy independence, and support for small producers.

Public record: No Texas legislative voting record was confirmed.

Accomplishments and record to date: Party leadership and political organizing are not the same as regulating wells and pipelines. Ask for measurable management results and technical plans for leaks, groundwater, flaring, enforcement, and abandoned wells.

Money and political ties: Use the latest Texas Ethics Commission report. Note major donors, candidate loans, groups that spend for or against the candidate, and any business interest tied to the office.

Voter Considerations: Ask how he would prevent leaks, plug old wells, protect groundwater, and handle industry campaign money.

Jon Rosenthal — Democrat

Who the candidate is: Texas House member with an engineering and energy background.

Service and term status: Texas House member since January 2019. A railroad commissioner serves six years and has no Texas term limit.

Main ideas: Well and pipeline safety, cleanup, strong oversight, and protection of nearby towns.

Public record: His House record includes votes on energy, the electric grid, budgets, and environmental rules.

Accomplishments and record to date: His official House record includes energy, grid, budget, safety, and environmental work, supported by an engineering background. Check each claimed success against bill actions and final roll calls; a filed energy bill is not an enacted rule.

Money and political ties: Use the latest Texas Ethics Commission report. Note major donors, candidate loans, groups that spend for or against the candidate, and any business interest tied to the office.

Voter Considerations: Ask how his engineering work would guide enforcement and how he would pay for abandoned-well cleanup.

Arthur DiBianca — Libertarian

Who the candidate is: Libertarian candidate. A full current biography was not confirmed.

Service and term status: No current elected term was confirmed. If elected, he would serve six years; Texas sets no term limit.

Platform detail not confirmed: This profile does not assign issue positions from the candidate's party label. Direct, current campaign statements are still needed.

Public record: No Texas legislative voting record was confirmed.

Accomplishments and record to date: No completed energy-regulation or public-administration result was confirmed. Ask for technical, legal, and management experience relevant to wells, pipelines, mining, and cleanup.

Money and political ties: Use the latest Texas Ethics Commission report. Note major donors, candidate loans, groups that spend for or against the candidate, and any business interest tied to the office.

Voter Considerations: Ask how much regulation he supports and who should pay when a well or pipeline is unsafe.

Additional statewide judicial races

Judges decide legal disputes and review lower-court decisions. Voters can compare legal experience, judicial work, ethics disclosures and written decisions. A campaign promise to decide a future case a certain way should not replace the duty to apply the law. The directory below adds races absent from the earlier master; full biographies remain to be completed.

Office	Republican	Democrat	L
Supreme Court chief justice	Jimmy Blacklock	Maggie Ellis	—
Supreme Court Place 2, unexpired term	James P. Sullivan	Chari Kelly	—
Supreme Court Place 7	Kyle Hawkins	Kristen Hawkins	—
Supreme Court Place 8	Brett Busby	Gisela D. Triana	—
Criminal Appeals Place 3	Thomas Smith	Okey Anyiam	M
Criminal Appeals Place 4	Kevin Patrick Yeary	Audra Riley	—
Criminal Appeals Place 9	John Messinger	Holly Taylor	—
15th Court of Appeals chief justice	Scott Brister	Jerry Zimmerer	—
15th Court of Appeals Place 2	Scott K. Field	Tom Baker	—
15th Court of Appeals Place 3	April Farris	Marc M. Meyer	—

Sources checked October 15, 2026: Texas Secretary of State August 28 ballot certification, printed pages 1241–1243: <https://www.sos.texas.gov/elections/forms/2026-ballot-cert.pdf>

Austin City Council elections

Austin City Council offices are officially nonpartisan. Members serve staggered four-year terms. The regular limit is two consecutive terms. The City Charter allows a candidate to seek a third consecutive term only through the required voter-petition process. Eligibility and petition status should be confirmed with the City Clerk.

Voters in Districts 1, 3, 5, 8, and 9 will elect their representatives on November 3, 2026.

What common City Council campaign terms mean

Public safety: The Council approves the budgets and policies for police, fire, emergency medical services, violence prevention, emergency response, street lighting, and some traffic-safety work. A candidate should say which service would change, how much it would cost, and how success would be measured.

Resident participation in development: The City can require public notices, hearings, meetings, language access, and online records before zoning or major project decisions. Voters should ask when public input could change a plan, who has the final vote, and how renters and people without free time would be included.

Parks and green spaces: This can mean buying land, protecting trees or natural areas, maintaining parks and pools, building trails, or requiring open space in new development. The candidate should identify the location, funding source, maintenance cost, and access for people with disabilities.

Transparency: This can include clearer budgets, timely public records, open contracts, lobbyist and conflict disclosures, readable meeting agendas, and performance data. A useful promise names the record that would become public and a deadline for posting it.

Review of costly projects: The Council can request an audit, change the scope, delay a contract, renegotiate it, or vote to stop future spending. A candidate should name the project, the cost threshold that triggers review, money already spent, cancellation costs, and the evidence used to decide.

Restoration of public trust: This is not one program. It may involve ethics rules, conflict disclosures, reliable services, public explanations, complaint tracking, and keeping measurable promises. Voters should ask what data would show that trust or service improved.

Affordable housing: Council tools include zoning, permits, density bonuses, public land, bond money, fee waivers, tenant protections, and contracts with housing groups. Each tool affects cost, location, speed, public spending, and the length of time a home stays affordable.

Fiscal responsibility: The Council adopts the budget, tax rate, utility rates, fees, contracts, and debt plans. A candidate should explain what would be cut, delayed, expanded, or paid for differently—and whether a cost is one-time or repeats every year.

Homelessness services: City action may include outreach, shelters, permanent supportive housing, mental-health partnerships, sanitation, and rules for public spaces. Council members approve policy and money, while City staff and partner agencies deliver most services.

Infrastructure: Streets, drainage, sidewalks, water lines, parks, public buildings, and some mobility projects require design, land, contracts, construction, and long-term maintenance. A promise should include location, schedule, funding, and the agency responsible.

Who benefits from Council development decisions

The election raises a practical question: when Austin helps finance growth, what enforceable benefits do residents receive? Large development deals should be judged by their public cost, promised benefits, risks and results. Corporate interests, local small businesses and residents can have different needs.

Dog’s Head offers a concrete example. The City says its July 23, 2026 financing decision created a 35-year tax increment reinvestment zone, or TIRZ. This is a special area where part of the growth in tax revenue pays for improvements in that area. The developer pays major infrastructure costs upfront. Eligible costs are then reimbursed from the zone’s revenue.

The City says 75% of the area’s new property and sales tax growth goes to the zone for 20 years, then 66% for 15 years. The remaining revenue goes to the general fund. Those shares concern new tax growth, not all taxes collected across Austin. The City argues that annexation provides oversight and future revenue. The public question is whether those gains justify the revenue committed to the project.

Sources checked October 15, 2026: City project documents and financing summary: <https://www.austintexas.gov/financial-services/dogs-head-documents-and-resources>

Council members did not all take the same position. Austin Free Press reported that the July 23 financing vote passed 7–3, with Mike Siegel, José Velásquez and Zohaib “Zo” Qadri voting against it. KUT reported that Velásquez supported the earlier May action but opposed the July financing action. Each decision needs its own date and record; a blanket description of the Council hides those differences.

Sources checked October 15, 2026: Austin Free Press, July 24: <https://austinfreepress.org/passion-project/> ; KUT, October 9: <https://www.kut.org/politics/2026-10-09/austin-city-council-district-3-election-2026>

Questions every candidate should answer

- Which incentives or reimbursements did you support, and what binding public benefit did the City receive?
- How many homes will be affordable, to which income levels, for how long, and who checks compliance?
- Who pays if project revenue falls short, costs rise, or promised jobs do not arrive?
- Which resident services could otherwise use the revenue committed to development?
- What protections apply to existing residents, small businesses, flood safety and the river?
- Which donors have interests in the project, and what disclosure or recusal rules apply?
- What will you publish so the public can compare promises with actual results?

Campaign contributions can show relationships worth examining. A donation alone does not prove an improper agreement or that a vote was bought. Report the donor, amount, date, relevant decision and candidate’s response before drawing a conclusion.

Candidate certification status

All 22 Council candidates profiled below appear in the City Clerk’s August 26, 2026 order of place on the ballot. A campaign-treasurer filing alone is not proof of ballot placement. The ballot order was used to resolve older rejected or withdrawn application entries.

Official ballot order:
<https://services.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=480041> •
Checked October 15, 2026.

District 1 — Open seat

Natasha Harper-Madison may not seek another term under the regular term limit.

Alexandria Anderson

Who the candidate is: Small-business owner; health and wellness coach; former professional sprinter; University of Texas graduate; and Austin resident for more than 20 years. She has participated in neighborhood associations and City commissions.

Platform: Transparency; fiscal responsibility; affordable housing; planned development; balance between housing and infrastructure; public safety; environmental protection; green spaces; and accessible services.

What this could mean for you: Her themes would require choices about the City budget, tax and fee levels, housing approvals, utility and road capacity, emergency services, parks, and environmental rules. Ask which action comes first and what measure would show that growth and infrastructure are in balance.

Experience and record to date: Community experience; service on City commissions; neighborhood knowledge; business experience; and recognition from her athletic career.

Steven Brown

Who the candidate is: Lifelong East Austin resident and medical-sector professional with approximately 20 years of experience.

Platform: Affordable housing; neighborhood participation; equity in City hiring; access to public health; improvements to Givens Park; historic preservation; and careful review of proposals involving taxes, housing, and zoning.

What this could mean for you: His agenda could involve housing and zoning votes, public-health contracts, City hiring rules, capital work at Givens Park, and protections for historic places. Ask for a named project, funding source, timeline, and the people responsible for delivery.

Experience and record to date: Deep roots in District 1; medical experience; and a record of involvement in community affairs, public health, parks, and historic justice.

Amber K. Goodwin

Who the candidate is: Attorney and assistant Travis County prosecutor. She has created community organizations dedicated to preventing violence.

Platform: Gun-violence prevention; community safety; economic opportunity; affordable housing; and services for historically underserved communities.

What this could mean for you: Gun-violence prevention at the City level may include outreach, crisis response, survivor services, youth programs, and coordination with police and health agencies within state-law limits. Ask which programs have evidence of reducing harm and how results would be reported.

Experience and record to date: Legal experience; community work in violence prevention; substantial fundraising; and support from political figures and organizations.

Michael Nahas

Who the candidate is: Businessman involved in housing and technology services.

Platform: Lower rents and taxes; financial accountability; better budget oversight; and reducing City spending that he considers unnecessary.

What this could mean for you: Council cannot directly set private rent, but it can affect housing supply, fees, property taxes, utilities, public housing investments, and tenant programs. Lower spending requires naming a program or contract to reduce and explaining the effect on services.

Experience and record to date: Business experience and the ability to focus his campaign on voter concerns about taxes, rents, and public spending.

Misael Ramos

Who the candidate is: Neighborhood leader; president of the Rogers Washington–Holy Cross Neighborhood Association; Rethink35 member; union member; and community organizer with affordable-housing experience.

Platform: Affordable housing; displacement prevention; safe neighborhoods; fast and accessible transportation; labor rights; protection of East Austin culture; healthy communities; and government accountability.

What this could mean for you: Community-focused government can include district offices, language access, neighborhood meetings, faster casework, small-business assistance, and budget choices that direct services to places with greater need. Ask which service standard would improve and by when.

Experience and record to date: More than 20 years of community involvement; experience with neighborhood organizations, housing, transportation, unions, and progressive coalitions. He was also a City Council candidate in 2022.

Portia Riggins

Who the candidate is: Born and raised in Austin. She has studied accounting and finance.

Platform: A complete and sufficiently detailed public platform was not located.

What this could mean for you: Her priorities should be tied to specific Council powers—budget votes, contracts, land use, public safety, utilities, parks, and constituent services. Ask for one first-year action, its cost, and a public measure of completion.

Experience and record to date: Local roots and education related to financial issues. Her specific proposals should be confirmed through an interview or forum.

District 3

Eduardo “Lalito” Romero

Who the candidate is: Young candidate who previously ran for the District 4 City Council seat.

Platform: He has emphasized representation of younger residents and community participation. A complete public platform for 2026 was not located.

What this could mean for you: Youth representation and participation could mean youth advisory seats, evening or online meetings, paid civic internships, language access, and outreach beyond regular City Hall speakers. Ask how public input would change an actual vote or budget item.

Experience and record to date: Previous experience as a candidate and the potential to connect with younger voters.

Brock Skinner

Who the candidate is: Professional with experience in sales and business development.

Platform: Economic development; practical management; business support; and improved City government operations. His complete positions need confirmation.

What this could mean for you: Economic development may involve permits, infrastructure, incentives, workforce partnerships, and support for small firms. “Practical management” should be tested through response times, project delivery, contract controls, and clear performance targets.

Experience and record to date: Business experience and the ability to present municipal issues from a business perspective.

José Velásquez

Who the candidate is: Current District 3 council member. He was elected in 2022 and previously served on several City boards and commissions.

Service and term status: Elected in 2022 and serving his first four-year term. Under the regular two-consecutive-term limit, he may seek a second term if he remains eligible and qualifies for the ballot.

Platform: Affordable housing; preservation of East Austin culture; parks; transportation; support for workers; community services; and equitable development.

What this could mean for you: The Council can use zoning, housing funds, cultural-district policy, park spending, transportation plans, contracts, and worker standards. Ask which actions he led, what the full Council adopted, what they cost, and what changed in District 3.

Experience and record to date: Incumbency; voting record; district recognition; resident relationships; and direct experience in City government.

Council record: His checkable record includes City budgets, land-use cases, housing, parks, transportation, labor, and district services. Name the resolution or ordinance, his vote, the full Council result, cost, and later outcome before crediting him with a completed result.

Gavino Fernandez Jr. (listed in some election records as Gavin Fernandez Jr.)

Who the candidate is: Community activist and candidate with experience in several local elections.

Platform: Protection of East Austin neighborhoods; cultural identity; families; small businesses; and resident participation. A complete and updated platform was not located.

What this could mean for you: Protecting neighborhoods and culture may involve anti-displacement programs, historic zoning, small-business aid, public land, and rules for new development. Each tool has legal, cost, and housing-supply tradeoffs that should be stated.

Experience and record to date: Extensive experience with East Austin issues; community knowledge; and recognition gained through earlier campaigns.

Neha Shah

Who the candidate is: Immigrant, United States citizen, technology professional, product manager, bilingual children’s author, and business owner.

Platform: Cost of living; protection against displacement; the environment; taxpayer transparency; immigrant safety; small businesses; digital access; housing; infrastructure; and dignity for people experiencing homelessness.

What this could mean for you: Her platform reaches zoning and housing funds, utility and infrastructure spending, climate policy, small-business services, digital access, immigrant outreach, and homelessness contracts. Ask which three items fit within a first-year City budget.

Experience and record to date: Technology and business experience; a personal immigrant story; bilingual ability; and a detailed public platform.

Shah and Velásquez compared

Issue	Neha Shah	José Velásquez
Experience	Technology and business background; challenger.	Incumbent Council member
Housing	Her campaign seeks guaranteed affordable homes in exchange for density bonuses.	Told KUT he supports affordable housing properties for low-income residents
Proposition I audit	Told KUT she supports the idea but has concerns about its political framing.	Told KUT he supports the idea but has concerns about its political framing
Voter question	How would affordability rules be enforced and paid for?	Which housing policies would be produced or what cost?

Other candidates in this race are Eduardo “Lalito” Romero, Brock Skinner and Gavin Fernandez Jr. All five belong in the comparison. KUT reported that Skinner supports Proposition I and that Fernandez emphasized taxes and outside oversight. KUT said Romero did not answer its questionnaire; that does not mean he refused an interview with XTRA.

Sources checked October 15, 2026: Shah campaign: <https://www.nehaforatx.com/> ; KUT candidate interviews, October 9: <https://www.kut.org/politics/2026-10-09/austin-city-council-district-3-election-2026>