

Candidate Profiles at a Glance

District 7 is spoiled for choice in terms of knowledgeable, diverse candidates



Jeb Boyt

- Attorney, worked for many years for state agencies overseeing land use
- Years of experience on City commissions: Downtown, Waller Creek, Parks, 2012 Bond Advisory Task Force.
- Ran a non-profit and advocacy group for bike trails along creeks; on board of organization seeking conservation land for water quality
- Has lived in Allandale since 1995.



Ed English

- Retired sales and marketing professional, worked in both large and small businesses, including in high tech
- Leader in Austinites for Geographic Representation (AGR), the group that shepherded the 10-1 Council system to the ballot box
- Served in navy during Vietnam, mainly at Kingsville Naval Air Station
- 30-year resident of Milwood.



Zack Ingraham

- Sales and marketing professional at LegalZoom.com
- Led effort to train Austin police officers in handling of aggressive dogs
- Advocate for 'demilitarization' of police, respect for due process
- Resident of Lamplight Village



Jimmy Paver

- Worked as campaign and local office director for Lloyd Doggett; served as legislative aide to Mark Strama in 2009 state legislative session.
- Graduate, LBJ School of Public Affairs (UT)
- Austin native; raised in Crestview, Allandale. Parents own Stepping Stone chain of daycare schools.



Leslie Pool

- Aide to Travis Co. constable Carlos Lopez. Past experience as state legislative aide; TxDOT.
- Years of experience on City commissions: Arts, Downtown, Telecommunications, Water/Waste Water, Seaholm Power Plant Reuse; Downtown Development Advisory Group; two Travis County bond committees, City's 2012 Bond Advisory Task Force.
- Rosedale resident. Co-founded Bull Creek Coalition to influence development on state property at Bull Creek near 45th.



Pete Salazar

- Employment specialist. Worked at several Austin-area charities: Good Will, Caritas. Specialty working with homeless veterans.
- Worked with area non-profits, businesses to organize a one-stop job placement hub
- Austin native. Early childhood in Crestview.



Darryl Wittle

- Owner of Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar (Domain)
- Served as City Hall advocate for Restaurant Association
- Involved in effort to adjust fees paid by Downtown valet parking groups



Melissa Zone

- Land use, transportation and natural resources planner. Has worked 4 years at Travis County; claims two decades' planning experience in Texas, Florida and Cleveland, Ohio.
- Volunteer on Crestview parks committee, seeking a new park at Ryan Property near Crestview Station
- History of volunteerism – AIDS task force, continual learning center for seniors, animal welfare.

Trade-off: Urban Parks vs Cost

The City of Austin wants to add more housing along streets like Burnet, and offset the resulting traffic congestion by shaping 'walkable' conditions. Candidates vary in how aggressively they would fund such improvements.



Jeb Boyt

- Would increase budget for parks, trails
- On 2012 bond task force, advocated for new water quality land outside the city; voted \$57 million for water quality land, versus \$4 million for new urban parks
- Says City should seek private sponsorship, find ways to raise park revenue streams



Ed English

- Would look for cost-effective opportunities to add parks
- Would prioritize parks near transit
- Says City should seek ways to raise park revenue streams



Zack Ingraham

- Supports improvements to existing parks, especially for families



Jimmy Paver

- Would look for cost-effective opportunities to add parks
- Would prioritize parks near transit
- Says City should seek ways to raise park revenue streams



Leslie Pool

- Would increase budget for urban parks
- On 2012 bond task force, advocated for increased urban park funding; ultimately voted \$57 million for new water quality land outside city, versus \$4 million for new urban parks
- Advocates City purchase of Bull Creek property from state, preservation of large park on site



Pete Salazar

- Would increase budget for parks, trails, youth programs



Darryl Wittle

- Says City should seek private sponsorship of parks



Melissa Zone

- Would increase budget for new parks
- Championed new park at Ryan Property near Crestview Station
- Says City should seek ways to raise park revenue streams

Affordability a Top Priority

All candidates list affordability as a top priority. All agree on a homestead exemption. Some candidates emphasize cutting costs more, while others emphasize increasing housing supply, changing state tax rules, or finding alternative revenue.



Jeb Boyt

- Would build more housing per Imagine Austin. Reform zoning and permitting rules. Get apartment occupancy rate from 97% to 90%.
- Would require commercial property owners to disclose what they paid for land, so appraisals are closer to market value
- Would require commercial property owners to disclose what they paid for land, so appraisals are closer to market value.



Ed English

- Would rein in City spending. Redirect utility profits, cost-cutting from City operational budget to rate cuts
- Would reform zoning and permitting rules; Add more housing mostly in suburban areas, but as transit-oriented centers. Ease back on corporate incentives



Zack Ingraham

- Would rein in City spending. Redirect utility profits, cost-cutting from City operational budget to rate cuts
- Would reform permitting rules to increase housing
- Would beef up code compliance, training
- Views land banking, rental registration as adding unnecessary cost to housing



Jimmy Paver

- Would rein in City spending. Redirect utility profits, cost-cutting from City operational budget to rate cuts
- Would cautiously add more housing, especially where organized around transit; reform permitting rules.
- Would incentivize affordable housing, especially for families in urban areas.
- Would use land banking to protect long-time residents from being displaced



Leslie Pool

- Would lobby the state legislature to reform commercial appraisal rules, so that commercial property owners pay more of the tax and residents less.
- Would reduce taxes, utility rates, fees, but also take steps that increase income for low-income households
- Would partner with private entities to keep rents affordable



Pete Salazar

- Would increase supply of low-income housing, especially in areas with affordable services
- Would restructure affordable housing in new development so it benefits long-term residents
- Would offer a mix of new housing that doesn't price out existing residents, families



Darryl Wittle

- Would reform zoning and permitting rules; build more housing per Imagine Austin.



Melissa Zone

- Would require commercial property owners to disclose what they paid for land, so appraisals are closer to market value
- Would require developers to pay higher fees for new infrastructure that the City currently has to build in suburbs
- Would add more housing, mostly in suburban areas as transit-oriented centers
- Would incentivize affordable housing, especially for families in urban areas

Trade-off: Affordability vs Community Culture

One-bedroom apartments account for 75% of new housing in the Burnet area. Such units often house short-term residents and exclude families with children, but are more affordable. Over time, a housing mix with a high weight of one-bedroom units, ala Downtown, can radically shift a community's culture and retail services.



Jeb Boyt

- Zoning decisions should be market-based. Let the market build what people want.
- The way to retain diverse communities, including families and seniors, is to ensure there is zoning of all different kinds of housing.
- Would protect AISD budget from 'recapture' rules by using City funds for after-school programs



Ed English

- City should protect supply of single-family housing stock in urban areas
- Would incentivize new affordable housing for families
- Would protect AISD budget from 'recapture' rules by using City funds for after-school programs



Zack Ingraham

- No information available



Jimmy Paver

- Would prioritize new affordable housing for families
- City should protect supply of family-friendly housing stock in urban areas
- Would protect AISD budget from 'recapture' rules by using City funds for after-school programs



Leslie Pool

- Would prioritize new affordable housing for families
- City should protect supply of family-friendly housing stock in urban areas
- Would encourage City-sponsored civic programs to engage students in public realm



Pete Salazar

- Would work with private sector to ensure some units in new development are affordable and family-friendly
- City should protect supply of family-friendly housing stock in urban areas



Darryl Wittle

- No information available



Melissa Zone

- City should protect supply of single-family housing stock in urban areas.
- Would prioritize new affordable housing, especially for families
- Would protect AISD budget from 'recapture' rules by using City funds for after-school programs

Trade-off: Livability vs Business Need

Commercial roads like Burnet sometimes see conflicts between businesses and adjacent residents. Conflicts are also possible within the neighborhood if commercial groups use homes for short-term rentals. Candidates discussed three examples: the Little Woodrow's bar rezoning, CSTRs, and the tree ordinance.



Jeb Boyt

- On Little Woodrow's, supported redeveloping the site; concerns about hours, sufficient parking
- Supports CSTR ordinance, but concerned about implementation and compliance
- Supports keeping tree ordinance rules as part of CodeNext



Ed English

- On Little Woodrow's, would have opposed rezoning for bar.
- Would revisit CSTRs, consider tighter restrictions than in original ordinance
- Supports keeping tree ordinance rules as part of CodeNext



Zack Ingraham

- No information available



Jimmy Paver

- On Little Woodrow's, not concerned about risk of a bar district yet, but should avoid it shaping into one
- Generally opposed to CSTRs as intrusion into community, but sees need to regulate them
- Would consider modest changes to tree ordinance but would not remove it from CodeNext



Leslie Pool

- On Little Woodrow's, would have opposed rezoning the bar.
- Supports CSTR ordinance, but would revisit to explore whether it is working as intended.
- Would add more protections to the tree ordinance



Pete Salazar

- On Little Woodrow's, would have opposed rezoning the bar.
- CSTRs need to be regulated
- Developers shouldn't get carte blanche to remove trees



Darryl Wittle

- No information available



Melissa Zone

- On Little Woodrow's, would have opposed rezoning, or postponed and engaged in the negotiations
- Would revisit CSTRs to explore why registration has not picked up now that ordinance is on the books
- Would add more protections to the tree ordinance

Trade-off: Public Safety vs Cost

Public safety is a core function of municipal government, but also an expensive one – police/fire/EMS account for 62% of the City’s operational budget. Most candidates advocate community policing, where police (or trained volunteers) are walking or biking a specific area. Most would not increase the police budget per se.



Jeb Boyt

- Would use community policing
- Would seek to utilize police more efficiently, for instance by instituting sobriety tanks where police just drop off drunk people, then get back on street
- Would optimize police resources across government organs (Austin, Travis Co, AISD, etc)
- Would seek to control rise in law enforcement budget



Ed English

- Would modestly increase the police budget, and add more officers by cutting overtime pay
- Would use community policing, especially in high-crime areas



Zack Ingraham

- Would ‘demilitarize’ police, encourage community policing



Jimmy Paver

- Would use community policing, with dedicated officers for a given area who are not serving as first responders.



Leslie Pool

- Would reintroduce community policing
- Would add new police stations, with police ‘scrums’ taking place at district level, rather than at headquarters



Pete Salazar

- Would use community policing based around local volunteers
- Would discourage spot-policing
- Would hire more police officers
- Would optimize police resources across government organs



Darryl Wittle

- No information available



Melissa Zone

- Would use community policing
- Would supplement police with community policing coordinators, other less expensive support staff
- Would integrate fire, EMS departments

AustinDistrict7.org



- All-volunteer project to cover the District 7 Council race from a local community perspective, in depth and fairly
- Non-partisan editor
- Dozens of articles, interviews, op-eds, links to useful sources
- Editorial board selected from prominent community leaders throughout the district, mostly neighborhood association presidents
- Board will release an evaluation of candidates on **Friday, October 3**

Trade-off: Congestion vs Cost, Housing

Austin is stuck in traffic. All candidates agree on no-brainer things like car-pooling or telecommuting. Most support buses and pedestrian amenities (sidewalks, bike lanes, plazas). Some candidates would spend more on roads. Few back the rail bond. Diversity on how much housing our early suburban roads can handle.



Jeb Boyd

- Supports November rail bond.
- Supports Lone Star rail sponsorship.
- Supports I35 improvements including tunnel through Downtown areas.
- Would put parks, plazas, sidewalks, trails near transit to reduce need to drive
- Says some new housing farther from transit, in the urban core, won't affect congestion much
- Supports some road, intersection improvements



Ed English

- Supports road improvements; widening (particularly in north)
- Supports "cost-effective" rail; opposes November rail bond.
- Would expand bus service
- Would arrange new housing close to transit, supported by sidewalks, parks, plazas
- Would add most new housing in suburban transit centers, to avoid overtaxing existing urban road networks



Zack Ingraham

- Supports road improvements
- Supports rail, opposes November rail bond



Jimmy Paver

- Supports road improvements, finishing 183 flyover and I35 improvements but not downtown tunnel.
- Supports rail; opposes November rail bond as too expensive
- Would arrange new housing close to transit, supported by sidewalks, parks, plazas
- Ok with some new low-rise apartments on commercial streets, even if not right near transit station. But says a plan to arrange housing into hubs is needed.



Leslie Pool

- Supports rail, opposes November rail bond as too expensive
- Would arrange new housing close to transit, supported by sidewalks, parks, plazas
- Opposes widening roads. Would look at intersection improvements, light synchronization.



Pete Salazar

- Supports rail, opposes November rail bond as too expensive
- Would direct more transit money to more bus routes, running more frequently and later hours. Not against rail, but not the place to start.
- Supports more sidewalks, parks, plazas.



Darryl Wittle

- No information available



Melissa Zone

- Supports rail, opposes November rail bond as too expensive
- Would arrange new housing close to transit, supported by sidewalks, parks, plazas.
- Would add most new housing in suburban transit centers, to avoid overtaxing urban road networks.
- Would look at intersection improvements, light synchronization.