

District 8 Candidate - Paige Ellis

1. What ideas do you envision to reach significant progress with the goals identified in the Blueprint?

I am supporting Prop A for this very reason. We need to increase the supply of affordable housing in Austin and ensure funding for repairs is available to prevent properties at risk of falling out of code compliance from being taken off the market. As we update our 1984 land development code, we need to allow for density along transit corridors and more missing middle housing in transition zones. We can also utilize HUD grants and Community Development Block Grants to help offset the cost of building the housing supply we need.

2. how do you suggest we enable the market to build more attainable housing for families and individuals currently priced out of our market, but earning more than 80% MFI?

Enable the market - Ensure the new land development code allows for this zoning, amend the 1984 code in the meantime. Make sure the city has enough permittees to approve housing projects in a timely manner. The city also needs to hire more building inspectors so projects aren't unnecessarily delayed.

This is a great example of the need for missing middle housing. In our attempt to encourage and expand more diverse housing options, we can meet this need by allowing for more duplexes and quadplexes in transition zones and allow for more density along transit corridors which will encourage walkable, connected environments.

3. How would you encourage large employers and private sector partners in Austin to contribute to the provision of affordable housing for their workers and the industries serving them?

For very large corporations, part of their interest in our vibrant city must include weighing their ability and willingness to help offset the affordability crisis. Our biggest concerns as a city are 1) affordability; and 2) traffic. In order for our relationship with large for-profit companies to thrive, they need to understand our issues and commit to joining our efforts to make this the best city we can be.

4. What city policies and roles can the city play to prevent formal and informal evictions among low income tenants?

Eviction information should be shared with the city and tracked in order to guide city officials toward maintenance of housing equity. If demographic analysis can show us locations/family income/race/ethnicity is an indicator of the likelihood of displacement, we should adopt a resolution and take proactive measures to achieve housing parity. While this is not my primary area of expertise, I commit to working with tenants' rights

groups and other community based organizations that have knowledge on this subject to both inform my point of view as well as inform public policy.

5. When considering affordable housing to be supported by the City, whether financial or other support, what are the top 4 or 5 criteria you would use to rank order a project to deem it worthy of support?

I would prioritize financial support for affordable housing projects that are

- a) accessible by transit or could be accessible in the near future;
- b) in close proximity to employment, job training, or education;
- c) near Healthcare facilities or community services; and/or
- d) identified in the Imagine Austin Growth Concept Map.