



For Immediate Release
March 24, 2011

Austin Neighborhoods Council 2011 Candidate Endorsements

The Austin Neighborhoods Council (ANC) endorsements in the three City Council races this year are:

PLACE 1 - NO ENDORSEMENT

The Austin Neighborhoods Council makes no endorsement in Place 1. While ANC applauds the incumbent, Chris Riley, for his votes on certain issues, on balance his record does not rise to our standards. We commend his vote against water treatment plant # 4, and respect his commitment to new urbanism and living a green lifestyle. For some individual neighborhoods he has been responsive. However, he has not met the opportunity to lead on city-wide issues. We challenge him to demonstrate more leadership based upon his passion and background.

PLACE 3 - KATHIE TOVO

The Austin Neighborhoods Council endorses Kathie Tovo for Place 3. Few candidates come as prepared as she is to assume the responsibilities of civic leadership. While serving in multiple positions of public service, Tovo has demonstrated community leadership, voted according to sound principles, and exhibited a sense of integrity. On the Planning Commission, Tovo supported neighborhoods on various development projects, worked to protect the Waterfront Overlay and neighborhood plans, and helped guide the city's new comprehensive planning efforts. As the Planning Commission representative on the AISD Facilities Task Force, she co-authored an independent analysis of the AISD facilities budget. By uncovering alternative cost savings, she helped push the district to keep several neighborhood schools open – for now. These are but a few examples. We look forward to seeing Tovo apply her great energy and focus to tackle problems at City Hall.

PLACE 4 - LAURA MORRISON

The Austin Neighborhoods Council endorses Laura Morrison for Place 4; she garnered a unanimous vote. ANC had high expectations for Morrison when she won our endorsement in 2008, and she exceeded them. Morrison brings to the dais common sense and the courage to stand on her convictions. She continues to demonstrate a vast knowledge and grasp of the intricacies of city government. Her record of bringing together disparate stake-holders and building consensus-based solutions still serves Austin well throughout the broad range of challenges that face the community.



ANC continues to set a high bar for its 2011 City Council endorsements, requiring a candidate earn at least two-thirds of the membership's vote at the endorsement meeting. The endorsement meeting was held Wednesday evening, March 23, 2011, following ANC's candidate forum.

ANC is grateful to the six candidates who completed our comprehensive questionnaire and participated in the forum: Chris Riley in Place 1; Kris Bailey, Randi Shade, and Kathie Tovo in Place 3; Laura Morrison and Eric Rangel in Place 4. Max Nofziger (Place 3) also completed the questionnaire but decided to not attend the forum. Responses to the questionnaire are posted on ANC's web site: www.ancweb.org.

ANC appreciates the opportunity to engage these thoughtful candidates in a discussion of the city's future and respects the dedication to public service represented by their participation in ANC's endorsement process. ANC would be pleased to work with any of them on the City Council.

ANC acts as a coordinating body for the efforts of Austin area neighborhood groups, serves as a clearinghouse for information, gives guidance in all matters of concern to individual neighborhoods and/or the City of Austin, and strives to make a positive contribution to Austin through the betterment of our neighborhoods and the promotion of civic awareness.

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