



Jimmy Flannigan (District 6 CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES)

1. HOW WOULD YOU WORK ON THE NEED FOR MORE AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE, INTEGRATED HOUSING FOR LOW INCOME PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES?

The need for affordable housing affects all parts of the community, and I've proposed many ideas to address that on the larger scale (improved land use along "Connected Corridors", incremental densification, reformed permitting and code enforcement processes). The bigger challenge for people with disabilities is the access to transportation and services connected to that housing. This is the city's primary role, as you note in questions below.

2. ACCESSIBLE AND EFFECTIVE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IS A CRITICAL NEED FOR THE DISABILITY COMMUNITY. HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS THIS NEED? (i.e. buses, light rail, taxis, Uber/Lyft)

I have called for improved bus service all over Austin. District 6 especially is underserved with public transportation but has some of the more affordable housing in the city. Light rail is an idea whose time may come, but not before a serious change in our land use and density planning. Private transportation options like taxis and TNCs (uber/lyft) need to provide ADA compliant options, but I would also favor an expansion of Capital Metro's MetroAccess program. The region's transit authority should serve those most in need first and as a community we should be willing to pay for doing the right thing.

3. HOW WOULD YOU EXPAND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN THE GREATER AUSTIN AREA?

Through the city's economic development department, the city should be both educating businesses on how to broaden their employment search by including people with disabilities, and ensuring sufficient job training programs.



4. HOW WOULD YOU PROMOTE THE NEED FOR PHYSICAL AND PROGRAM ACCESS TO SIDEWALKS, PRIVATE BUSINESSES AND CITY SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES?

This is crucial to my plan for “Connected Corridors”. Instead of the patchwork infrastructure the city currently builds (e.g. a fully ADA-compliant sidewalk extends just one block down a busy street), the city should be focusing on providing full connectivity, including ADA-compliant access, along high-priority corridors. This done in conjunction with land use planning providing for affordable housing will help focus city resources to provide complete solutions rather than scattered half-measures.

5. WILL YOU PROMOTE THE APPOINTMENT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES TO CITY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND TASK FORCES?

Yes. I am committed to diversity at city hall and in citizen participation, including people with disabilities.

6. PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES VIEW DISABILITY RIGHTS AS CIVIL RIGHTS. WHAT WILL BE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES?

As a member of the LGBT community, I know first-hand what it means for your civil rights to be perceived as less-than by others. Civil rights are non-negotiable.

7. HOW DO YOU SEE THE ROLE OF THE CITY’S ADA COORDINATOR AND THE MAYORS COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES?

Like many of the coordinators, liaisons, and community specialists at the city, their role is to be the watchdog for those issues as the work of the city moves through council. Committees/commissions should be places where specific policy



recommendations can be explored, either in response to existing council work or as a prospective ordinance to address an existing or future problem.

8. PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES OF ALL AGES DO NOT WANT TO LIVE IN NURSING FACILITIES. WHAT STEPS CAN AUSTIN TAKE TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY LIVING?

This is again about connectivity to transportation and services. If there was safe and accessible transit, then fewer people would be forced into nursing facilities unnecessarily.