



DeWayne Lofton (District 1 CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE)

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

I support more affordable, accessible and integrated housing for people with disabilities. I was on the 2006 Bond Advisory committee and as part of that committee; I supported the housing bonds as well as other issues important to the disability community. To ensure we have more accessible housing that is geographically dispersed, I will work with developers to increase the housing options and offer housing bond money as an incentive.

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 will work with Capital Metro to increase transportation options for people with disabilities. I understand the challenges of MetroAccess and I also realize it is always not convenient for persons with disabilities to sit in the sun, rain and cold for hours waiting on regular bus service. To that end, I will ensure as we increase transportation options for all citizens that we pay particular attention to the disabled community.

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

Employment is an issue for many people in this community and I believe within the disability community it is even more of a challenge. I will work with employers to increase the opportunities for employment for people with disabilities. I believe we can do this through partnerships and incentives. I will also ask the City Manager to look at positions within the COA that can be filled by persons from the disability community.



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

Through my role as a Commissioner on the Austin Human Rights Commission, I have already been working on these issues. Just this month, we had an update on the city's progress on building sidewalks. At the rate we build sidewalks in Austin, we are 100 years behind having a complete system. I will work to increase this funding to speed this process up. I will also work with groups like this and ADAPT to ensure we are putting our limited resources to the best use as we address these issues.

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

Absolutely, and I will look to this organization and others to help me identify those persons who can serve on the various boards and commissions.

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

I agree some of your priorities are civil rights issues and that is why I have supported them through my role as a Commissioner on the Austin Human Rights Commission. I have also worked with Jennifer McPhail and others to bring attention to this issue through our work on the COA Bond Advisory Committee. I believe full integration is critical to a safe and progressive community and I will work with this group and others to ensure your rights are acknowledged and respected.



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

I view these two roles as critical pieces of our city government. It is through the efforts of these two entities that we often learn about and make plans to improve the issues affecting the disability community. These groups also offer a forum to receive issues and a vehicle to get things done to address them.

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

I agree nursing homes are not the place where people with disabilities should be forced to live. I believe we can create more integrated housing throughout Austin and I will work with this community to make that a reality.