



Pio Renteria (District 3 CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE)

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

I will continue to support safe, mixed income, accessible, reasonably priced, and transit oriented (S.M.A.R.T.) housing in Austin. As affordability continues to affect all of us, it is important that the housing concerns and needs of the disability community are not shelved. We must take a fair and sensible approach toward addressing these needs and keep them in mind as we work to address our city's general housing needs. I will work to create incentives that will allow residents, who may not otherwise have the resources, make homes visitable and accessible.

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)

There's no quick fix to address our city's growing transportation needs. We must take a multi-modal approach that will provide our residents, including those with disabilities, options and give them a real choice in how they move around town

I will work with the Capital Metro Access Advisory Committee and the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities to ensure that the transportation needs of the disability community are acknowledged, understood, and addressed. I will also work with Capital Metro to explore reducing transit costs and fees for low-income individuals with disabilities.

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

We must provide incentives to local small businesses that provide opportunities to individuals with disabilities. Beyond that we need to continue to support non-



discrimination policies that protect the rights of the disability community in Austin.

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

We have made a lot of progress in terms of accessibility in recent years. However, there is so much more left to do. That includes making sure that our “fixes” are not just short-term or superficial. To give a very brief example - some sidewalks have ramps that provide access but many times there are telephone poles or other objects obstructing the path that make actually traveling down the sidewalk inconvenient or even dangerous for those with disabilities. We have to do better than that.

I have worked to get accessibility ordinances approved in previous years and will gladly continue that work at City Hall - whether I have the opportunity to serve as a Council Member or not.

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

Yes, I will certainly promote the appointment of people with disabilities to city boards, commissions, and task forces.

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

Disability rights are civil rights. There is much progress to be made in education, housing, employment, and transportation. I will work to create opportunities for the members of our community living with disabilities by supporting increased accessibility in our schools, homes, workplaces, and modes of transportation.



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

The ADA Coordinator should have the resources necessary to successfully and effectively provide technical assistance to all city departments and help them better comply with accessibility requirements.

The ADA Coordinator's Office and the Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities should be open, inclusive, and have the ability to communicate effectively with city staff and the public about the needs of the disability community.

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

We can support the work of groups like Foundation Communities that provide small community independent living and make outside support available when needed.