

San Antonio Current

Candidate Questionnaire

Please mail or FAX by Thursday, April 19, 2007, to:

San Antonio Current

1500 N. St. Mary's

San Antonio, TX 78215

FAX to 210.227.6611

Email questions to Keli Dailey at kdailey@sacurrent.com or call 210.227.0044

Feel free to attach additional sheets for your answers

Biographical:

Name: kat swift

Office Seeking: City Council District One (1)

Age: 33.875 yrs old

[I choose not to respond to the following five as I they are questions that are protected by law from discrimination – or should be – regarding employment.]

Sex:

Sexual orientation:

Race/ethnicity:

Religious Preference:

Children:

Education: Equality in education opportunities is desperately needed.

Memberships: Humanity, Earth, and organizations that protect both.

Annual Income: <27k on a good year

Source of Income: usually from some incorporated entity

Employment History: 15yrs in business administration

Election History: voted once when I turned 18; then spent 9 years in apathetic self-governance; followed by the last 8 years of active political participation – petitioning, voting, working on campaigns, etc.

Public-Service History: lifetime of care for abused children and 8 years working for environmental, labor and election reforms

A. City-wide questions:

With which County Commissioner do you have the closest relationship? Explain how you know him, even if you've only spoken to him once.

Tommy Adkisson - through my work on environmental issues and campaign and election reforms. He has attended meetings and been publicly outspoken on some of the same issues as organizations I've been involved with.

Are you fundraising for your campaign? If not, why not?

Yes because I have no personal or family wealth to use for this campaign.

Do you favor or oppose changing the present structure of City Council term limits? If in favor, please give details.

I favor changing the structure of term limits. The problem they were a band-aid solution for has not been fully resolved. We need more election reforms like publicly-financed campaigns, pay for city council members, and Instant Runoff Voting to make it possible for those not backed by large amounts of money to run viable campaigns and serve to his/her fullest capacity.

Do you approve/disapprove of the job Sheryl Sculley has done as City Manager? Please explain.

It seems she is doing her job professionally.

Do you favor extending the county AT&T venue tax and, if so, what's the best use for that money?

I favor AT&T slowly putting back into the general fund, as a percentage of the profits of their gross-sales, the monies they received from the public in venue taxes. We could then use those funds to supplement fixing our ailing infrastructure.

What would you do to make San Antonio a "world-class city?"

Push for quality growth over quantity growth using our existing resources to be among the first cities in Texas to have a future-focus on sustainable growth and draw the line on international corporate welfare and extortion.

Do you support the termination of a previous councilperson's appointments when the new councilperson takes office? Will you formalize the process of council appointments?

I support having the option to replace any appointment where the appointee is not serving the community affected by her/his appointment. If the process is not formalized, it definitely needs to be.

B. Issues

PARKS:

In which park do you spend the most time? When was the last time? How would you improve it?

Woodlawn Lake Park. Saturday, April 21, 2007. More water fountains, put in recycle bins, more doggie poo bags stations, more trash cans for those bags once used, make parts wheel friendly (bikes/boards/blades/chairs), and work to clean up the water quality of the lake to be safe for humans again.

BOND:

Do you personally plan to vote for the bond? Explain.

1. Streets package – probably not due to the funds being spent on new development and roads for toll road diversion.
2. Parks – I probably will even though we are going to pay a fortune for the park land, but we need to preserve green space in this city.
3. Libraries – yes, we need to fix them somehow and this may be the only way at this point.
4. Public Services – yes
5. Drainage – yes – we need to address these issues before more houses are lost to flood damage.

Should the bond issues be structured citywide or should it be divided by district? Explain.

Bonds need to be minimally used only when there are no other funding options. If we changed to other funding options, your question is likely to be mute.

SAPD:

We have a small police department (2,000 officers) in relation to our population (1.4-million people): Would you increase the size of the SAPD? If so, how? If not, why not?

The police force must be of a size necessary to protect the safety of us (the community) and the officers. No officer should have to show up at a potentially dangerous scene without backup. It may be that we can address issues that take up police time in other ways, like more direct intervention and treatment to reduce the impact of addiction on our community. In countries with more equitable and fair drug laws and social services, the police to resident ratio is lower than our 1:700.

TRANSPORTATION:

What is your position on toll roads proposed for Wurzbach, the I-35 alternate, 281 and 1604, and Bandera Road? Would you seek to appoint toll-road opponents on the MPO board?

Toll Roads are a means to redirect public funds to corporate revenue streams. It would be refreshing to have both opponents and proponents on boards.

Should we support mass-transit issues such as light rail? If not light rail, what's a better alternative?

Yes, with raising gas prices, light rail and other rapid public transportation that is efficient and easy to use are better options for residents and for our environment than increased personal vehicle traffic and toll roads.

SCHOOLS:

What is the best way to retain K-12 student population in the inner city, and relieve the pressures of overpopulation in the Northern districts?

Focus growth on revitalizing the existing inner city neighborhoods, including industrial and commercial areas, to create a thriving safe, livable and walk-able city for all residents regardless of their income level. If a community is safe, people will move in.

C. Finish the following phrases:

___ If evil exists, fear___ is the root of all evil.
Absolute ~~power~~ authority corrupts absolutely.

D. DISTRICT QUESTIONS:

District 1

How would you support neighborhood plans and the protection of existing housing stock?

By assessing any needs that have not been addressed and ensuring that the plans are being upheld in Planning and Zoning. We need more inner city housing redevelopment.

How would you balance downtown interests with homeowners in this district?

By giving equal weight to both sides and ensuring that the city departments for those two areas are equal as well.

How would you address the movement in Tobin Hills and Five Points against becoming historic districts?

Continue to work towards consensus between the two sides, which will take time, to come to a resolution that, if not all, at least 2/3 of the residents are not angry about and can live with.