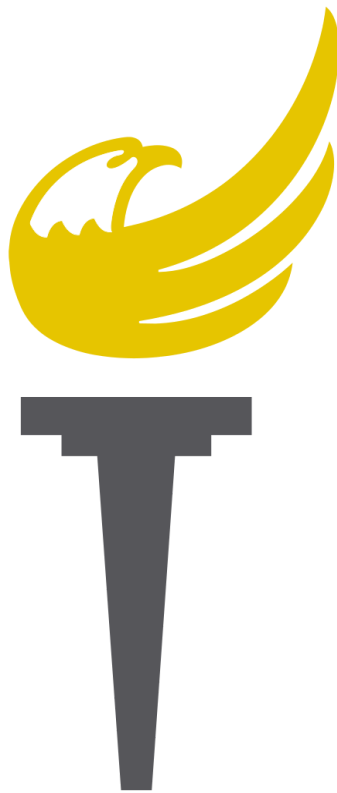




# 2023 CITY OF SAN ANTONIO CANDIDATE SURVEY



Libertarian Party of Bexar County, [www.LPBexar.org](http://www.LPBexar.org)



LPBexar

## 2023 CITY OF SAN ANTONIO CANDIDATE SURVEY

Dear Voters,

We at the Libertarian Party of Bexar County would like to extend our gratitude to those who have taken the time to check out our Candidate Survey. Civic engagement means talking to people even though you may not immediately agree with them. Too many politicians have lost this ability even as their constituents demand it.

As voters, it is important to know who will be representing us in office, and we wanted to provide a platform for all 59 Mayoral and City Council candidates to share their views with their future constituents.

Unfortunately, we are disheartened to report that only 13 candidates saw it necessary to provide voters with information about themselves. Even more disappointing is the fact that **ZERO incumbents felt the need to respond**. This is indicative of a greater issue in San Antonio- representatives who are out-of-touch and feel they already have name recognition and a strong base of support, and therefore do not see the need even if it's something their constituents desire.

They may be worried that answering questions on a survey could potentially harm their chances of re-election, especially if their answers do not align with their constituents' views.

As libertarians, we understand that we may not agree with every candidate ideologically, but we believe that there are still elements of our platform that each candidate can align with. We've provided accolades to many candidates whom we may not perfectly align. This should be normalized! It is our intent to work with those candidates on issues that we do align, regardless of any disagreements we may have.

Thank you again for taking the time to educate yourselves about the candidates who will be representing us. Remember to make your voices heard and exercise your right to vote in the upcoming elections.

Sincerely,

J.R. Haseloff

Chair, Libertarian Party of Bexar County

[www.LPBexar.org](http://www.LPBexar.org)

*Nothing can destroy a government more quickly than its failure to observe its own laws, or worse, its disregard of the charter of its own existence*

*– S. Supreme Court Justice Tom C. Clark – Mapp vs. Ohio*



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## THE CANDIDATE SURVEY

There are a few reasons why we decided to put all the questions up front along with an abbreviated description of each candidate's response instead of reprinting the full questions for each candidate.

Firstly, it allows readers to quickly and easily see the issues that were addressed in the survey. This can help them determine if any particular issue is important to them and if they want to read further into a particular candidate's responses.

Secondly, by including an abbreviated description of each candidate's response, it provides readers with a snapshot of each candidate's positions without having to read through lengthy repeated questions. This can be particularly helpful for voters who are short on time or who want to quickly compare the positions of multiple candidates on a particular issue. Here are the questions that each candidate answered:

Name, What office are you running for? Biography? Why should voters elect you to this office?

### SECTION 1: GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- In your opinion, what are the top three issues currently affecting San Antonio, and if elected, how would you address these?
- Do you believe that there should be any additional legal limits placed on speech?
- Do you support restrictions or bans on ownership of specific types of firearms?
- Eminent Domain has been abused by governments, and their agents, through the seizing of property without just compensation, for reasons other than “public good,” and to shift power further in the favor of the powerful. What would you do, if elected, to improve CoSA policy around the use of eminent domain?
- Do you support the idea that relationships between consenting adults, regardless of the number of participants, should have no impact on the government’s treatment of individuals in child custody, adoption, or other legal proceedings or government employment practices?
- What three City of San Antonio programs would you terminate and why?
- Any Additional clarification?

### SECTION 2: PUBLIC SAFETY

- Do you support San Antonio Police Department’s policies that effectively ban chokeholds and no-knock warrants?
- In 2022, voters in Austin, Denton, Elgin, Harker Heights, Killeen and San Marcos, overwhelmingly approved the decriminalization of possession of less than 4 oz of marijuana. Would you support an ordinance to decriminalize possession of marijuana in San Antonio?
- Do you support the San Antonio Police Department hiring more officers?

- Do you support repealing ordinances that create penalties for crimes with no clear victim (i.e., vagrancy, possession of a controlled substance, sodomy, etc.)?
- Policing in America is a common topic of discussion in U.S. politics today, with much of the discussion focused around local policies. What is your view on the state of policing in America, and what would you seek to accomplish in San Antonio if elected?
- In 2020, the Kinder Institute for Urban Research at Rice University found civilian oversight of the police in San Antonio to lack access, independence, transparency, budget, staffing, legal standing, or any power to influence policy. What changes would you make to the Complaint and Administrative Review Board (CARB) to achieve effective oversight and increased civilian trust?
- Any Additional clarification?

## **SECTION 3: LOCAL ECONOMY**

- The sales tax rate in San Antonio is 8.25%, with the city sales tax rate being 1.25%; do you support initiatives that would reduce the sales tax rate in San Antonio?
- In FY 2023, the property tax rate for San Antonio is 54.161 cents per \$100 of taxable value, which has been compounded by the sharp 23% increase in appraised average home value in 2022. Do you support initiatives that would reduce the property tax rate for ALL property owners in San Antonio?
- Do you support repealing ordinances that create barriers to entry for low-income entrepreneurs (i.e., occupational licensing, permits, etc.)?
- Do you support a city mandate that requires public places, including private businesses, to post signage with domestic violence resources?
- The COVID-19 pandemic was a challenging time for state and municipal governments across America. In the event of a pandemic or other similar emergency, how do you think the city should respond? What, if anything, would you like to see done differently next time?
- The official inflation rate is 7.1%, but actual inflation of food items is closer to 11% and energy is at 13%. What reforms would you recommend to reduce the burden of inflation locally?
- Any Additional clarification?

## **SECTION 4: CITY SERVICES**

- SA's Ready to Work program continues to fall behind targets, despite representing a significant increase in the sales tax rate (0.125%). Do you support canceling this program and the tax increase that pays for it?
- Do you believe CPS Energy is best managed by the City of San Antonio (instead of a private energy provider)?
- VIA Metropolitan Transit is funded through a 0.500% sales tax increase. Do you believe taxpayers are receiving a good return on investment?
- At an average cost of over \$11,000 per student, Pre-K 4 SA is nearly 25% more than both the national Head Start program and the SA area school district. Do you support program reforms that would significantly reduce the cost of this program?
- In October 2022, the Federal government started the House America initiative, and San Antonio was one of first cities to take the pledge. If elected, what do you believe should be done to help the homeless population in San Antonio?

- In many neighborhoods across the city you will find “Mi Barrio No Se Vende” signs. If elected, how will you balance revitalization efforts, attracting investors, and fears of displacement within low-income neighborhoods?
- Any Additional clarification?

## **SECTION 5: EDUCATION**

- Do you support a voucher program where a specified amount of educational funding could be applied to a student’s schooling, technology, or transportation expenses, at the educational institution of their choice?
- Do you support public school districts mandating vaccinations not required by the State of Texas?
- According to the 2022-2023 Parent Student Handbook, a fifth or eighth grade student must perform well on the STAAR exam to advance to sixth or ninth grade, respectively, in SAISD. Do you believe that satisfactory STAAR testing is an appropriate prerequisite for promotion to the next grade in San Antonio schools?
- Do you support the Connected In the Classroom initiative, which is currently estimated to cost San Antonio taxpayers \$27 million, and provides distance learning capabilities to students living in specific areas of eight K-12 San Antonio area school districts and the Alamo Community College District?
- Although 95.3% of Texas schools did not permit mock intruder access during the recent 2023 state-wide safety audit, school safety is the top issue for parents according to the annual Charles Butt Foundation’s Texas Education Poll, with 53% of parents perceiving at least a moderate risk to students in their communities. How will you approach the issue of school safety in San Antonio, and what solutions will you bring to the dais?
- What do you believe the public school’s role is in teaching and interacting with students on controversial topics such as sexual and gender education, historical race relations, gun control, etc.?
- Any Additional clarification?



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## BEST IN CLASS

### HIGHEST OVERALL SCORE

*Chris Baecker, the City Council candidate for District 6, received the highest overall score winning the accolade that best represents Libertarian values. Baecker addressed various issues affecting San Antonio and shared his opinions on topics such as the limits on speech, firearms, eminent domain, relationships between consenting adults, policing, taxation, city services, and education. Baecker's responses aligned with libertarian principles of limited government intervention and maximizing individual freedom. He expressed his support for decriminalizing marijuana possession, reducing the property tax rate, and repealing ordinances that create barriers to entry for low-income entrepreneurs. He also advocated for reforms to reduce the cost of Pre-K 4 SA, VIA Metropolitan Transit, and CPS Energy.*



### BEST ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Two candidates tied for highest overall score in the General Principles category. **Denise Gutierrez for District 2** and **Jacob Chapa for District 7** had responses that best represent Libertarian values are below.



**Denise: 3 CoSA programs you'd terminate?** CAAP, Agenda based Green New Deals are costly and unwarranted in a city with a low income population. The 2023 Bond should not be started until the 2017 has been finished. No need to start paying high interest. PreK4SA should not be funded through our taxes for 2k students while taxpayers are already paying high school taxes.

**Jacob: 3 CoSA programs you'd terminate?** Pre-K for SA, it is a form of double taxation. Young children are already offered public pre-k education at the expense of property taxes. SA Climate Ready, I believe that weatherization and green energy transition should be left for the private sector to adopt naturally without unnecessary taxpayer funds.



## BEST ON CRIME AND JUSTICE



Denise McVea, Candidate for City Council District 2 and author of Evil Corp, aligned best with the Libertarian stance on Crime and Justice.

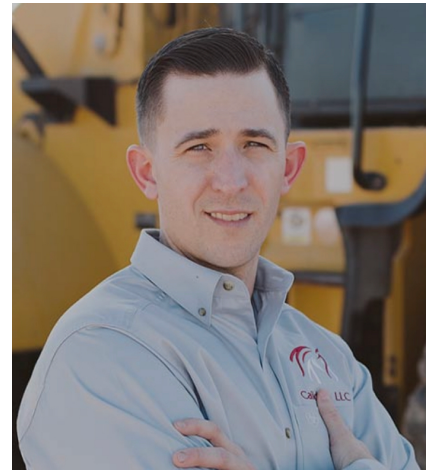
**View on the state of policing in America?** American policing is in crisis. Locally, a record number of police officers are committing suicide. I have long said that police departments' protection of bad cops has created a hostile and dangerous environment for good cops. Additionally, police policies that protect bad cops have also provided a home within law enforcement for organized crime. Police leadership's unwillingness to confront internal corruption and organized crime is already beginning to have serious national security implications. I would use my platform as a city council member to raise the discussion about these crucial realities. It is imperative that someone advocate for good cops in this town.

**Changes you'd make to the Complaint and Administrative Review Board (CARB) to increased oversight/trust?** I would relentlessly demand government transparency, and take action to assure that open records act requests are timely and fully met (in all departments). I would meet with local advocates and media outlets to make sure that they get data that has been historically withheld.

## BEST ON LOCAL ECONOMY

Chris Schuchardt, candidate for San Antonio Mayor best exemplified the response to best combat the economic issues of San Antonio.

**Support reduction for sales tax rate?** Yes  
**Support reduction in property tax rate?** Yes  
**Support repealing occupational licensing and permits?** Yes  
**Solution to reduce the burden of inflation locally?** Inflation is caused by one thing: government spending. Reducing property tax burden and wasteful spending by local governments is a start at the local level.



## BEST ON CITY SERVICES

Jarrett Lipman, Candidate for San Antonio City Council District 9 best exemplified the response to combat the issues around vital City Services of San Antonio.



**Cancel SA's Ready to Work program and tax increase that pays it?** Yes  
**Is CPS Energy best managed by the CoSA?** No  
**VIA Metro, good return on investment?** No  
**Support Pre-K 4 SA program reforms?** Yes  
**How will you balance revitalization efforts, attracting investors, and fears of displacement within low-income neighborhoods?** While many areas in District 9 have been built out, land is still available for the new development of houses and businesses. With that said, infill development in the southern ends of the district is inevitable, and we will begin to face issues with gentrification in the years to come. As Councilman, I will advocate for the existing homeowners in the district, and explore freezing property taxes for long-time residents or exploring policies that allow residents whose taxes have grown more than 10% to defer property tax payments until they sell. This requires discussion at the local and state level, but it is essential we do not tax people out of their homes as we continue to grow our city.

## BEST ON EDUCATION

Ernest Salinas, Candidate for San Antonio City Council District 1 best exemplified a Libertarian response to the role of Education Services here in San Antonio.

<b><i>Support voucher program for educational funding?</i></b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b><i>Support ISDs mandating vaccinations not required by the State of Texas?</i></b>	<b>No</b>
<b><i>STAAR testing an appropriate prereq for promotion in schools?</i></b>	<b>No</b>

<b><i>How do you approach school safety in San Antonio, what solutions?</i></b>	<b>School</b>
<b><i>Choice. Parents should have a say on where they feel their children will be safe.</i></b>	
<b><i>Public school's role is in teaching controversial topics? It is not the public school's</i></b>	
<b><i>place to parent.</i></b>	





# **CANDIDATE RESPONSES**

# Chris Baecker



## Candidate for San Antonio City Council District 6

*I was born and raised in Victoria, TX, where I graduated high school. After spending the 1990s in Dallas, I moved to San Antonio with my four girls' mom in April 2000, and I've lived in district 6 since 2008.*

*I've worked most of this time in SA in the energy industry, and for the last 9 years I've taught college economics in my spare time. For the last 18 months I have been editor and policy director of InfuseSA, a non-profit/non-partisan organization that advances personal and economic freedom for all citizens of Bexar County.*

*My daughters have ranked in the top 2%, 10%, 2% and 2%, respectively, academically, and have held leadership/all-region positions in band and color guard.*

**Why should voters elect you to this office?** Because I want to get the city completely out of their affairs and out of their pocketbooks.

**Top 3 issues and how to address them?** Property taxes - I plan to propose chipping away at the rate as much as possible, as often as possible.

Crime - I will defend the right of citizens (the first line of defense) to defend themselves by any means they see fit. I will propose repealing any ordinance that makes it more costly for businesses to employ people, and therefore makes crime a less-costly alternative for prospective employees. By the same token, I would vigorously oppose any effort to eliminate criminal punishment for violent aggressions against peaceful citizens i.e. theft of goods or services, assault, etc. I would do what I could to ensure a disciplined police force.

Corruption - Several donors to council members end up rewarded with city contracts. Their cronies tend to benefit from federal dollars. This numbs the incentive of all involved to produce the best product. It shuts out the little guy who can't afford a line-item in their budget for "lobbying."

**Any additional legal limits placed on speech?** No

**Support restrictions on ownership of firearms?** No

**How to improve use of eminent domain?** Hand officials a dictionary and point them to the definition of "public good/use." Refresh their understanding of the English language so that they know "in the interests of the financial viability of the beneficiary of eminent domain" is NOT what "public good/use" means. Otherwise, I would seek to tighten up the language in the code of ordinances if it's lacking.

**Support relationships between consenting adults?** Yes

**3 CoSA programs you'd terminate?** Ready to Work - it has been rolled out in predictably-for-government plodding fashion. Given the pre-existence of educational institutions and employers whose best interest is served by training their new employees, it is a needless waste of taxpayer funds. It has also morphed into a taxpayer giveaway when payouts tripled. PreK4SA - they spend more than 3X/student than the NISD does, another taxpayer-funded entity. Studies of such preschool programs have shown that any benefits tend to fade by the time the children reach middle school. There is already an existing network of pre-schools and daycares whose costs have soared due to excessive government involvement and subsidies. This is essentially officials' and bureaucrats' effort to socially engineer education at taxpayers' expense.

The millions devoted to various "economic development" programs. A more inexpensive way to achieve this is to clear the arbitrarily-applied red tape for budding entrepreneurs.

Payroll - not only does the goal of becoming an "employer of choice" cost taxpayers too much, it drains talent away from the prosperity-creating industrial/commercial sector.

**Support SAPD banning chokeholds and no-knock warrants?** Yes

**Support decrim possession of marijuana?** Yes

**Support SAPD hiring more officers?** No

**Support repealing victimless crime ordinances?** Yes

**View on the state of policing in America?** I prefer to address problems at their root cause rather than slapping a band-aid on something that needs stitches. As alluded to above, the police are burdened with enforcing 'fake' crimes; those that have no victim. They are also burdened by the fallout of poor policy that makes a life of crime more viable than work in commerce, industry, etc. There's also fallout from the suboptimal state of public education, which is admittedly the purview of the state and ISDs (one day, ideally more that of parents). The police should be held accountable just like everyone else, perhaps even moreso. But politicians need to stop making their job more difficult by messing with people's lives via excess rules, taxation, etc.

**Changes you'd make to the Complaint and Administrative Review Board (CARB) to increased oversight/trust?**

Investigate whatever is standing in the way, and work to clear it out.

**Support reduction for sales tax rate?** Yes  
**Support reduction in property tax rate?** Yes  
**Support repealing occupational licensing, permits?** Yes  
**Support requiring signage with domestic violence resources?** No

**COVID-19 city response? What should be different next time?** Shutdowns are NOT an option, and ran WAY past their course when implemented. Why was the Alamodome used for tracking people i.e. contact tracing, rather than as an emergency hospital, as the Freeman Coliseum was later? The collective decisions of millions of people are a better guide than the wisdom (or lack thereof) of politicians and bureaucrats. People were already adjusting. There was absolutely no need to drop and leave the hammer down as long as it was. What officials COULD do is lead by healthy example. There was barely any mention of the benefits of vitamin D, eating healthy and exercising as much as possible. It was all "stay at home, cover your face, get the jobs".

**Solution to reduce the burden of inflation locally?** Inflation is borne out of poor monetary and presidential policy in D.C. Localities could mitigate the harmful effects by not promoting programs that make it easier for prospective employees to stay on the sidelines. When employers lack that resource and/or its price rises, so does the cost of the final good or service. And at the risk of sounding like a broken record, exorbitant property taxes that feed off that monetary policy make things worse.

**Support canceling SA's *Ready to Work* program and tax increase that pays it?** Yes

**Is CPS Energy best managed by the CoSA?** No

**VIA Metro, good return on investment?** No

**Support *Pre-K 4 SA* program reforms?** Yes

**House America initiative, how to help the homeless population?** Assist the mentally-ill and drug-addicted to get help. For everyone else, reduce the burden on employers to create jobs for the homeless. Enforce loitering and trespassing laws.

**How will you balance revitalization efforts, attracting investors, and fears of displacement within low-income neighborhoods?** Assuming a person owns their home outright, or is current on their mortgage payment, the only threat of displacement is an inability to pay property taxes. No one should lose their home because of that.

**Support voucher program for educational funding?** Yes

**Do you support public school districts mandating vaccinations not required by the State of Texas?** No

**STAAR testing an appropriate prerequisite for promotion in San Antonio schools?** No

**Support *Connected In the Classroom* initiative?** No

**How do you approach school safety in San Antonio, what solutions?** Do not get in the way of citizens being able to carry firearms, tasers, mace, etc. protection wherever they go. Allow teachers to do the same if they're comfortable doing so.

# Robert Flores



## Candidate for City Council District 10

*Successful Sales & Marketing Executive whose career turned into advocacy/lobbyist.*

*Government Affairs Executive working on behalf of employers or clients on various business-related issues impacting tax policy, technology and affordable housing.*

**Why should voters elect you to this office?** I believe I am the most qualified candidate because of the 20 plus years directly involved in public policy impacting the lives of the citizenry, businesses and municipal infrastructure.

**Top 3 issues and how to address them?** Property Taxes, Crime in the neighborhoods and delivery of services (infrastructure). Raise the Homestead exemption/plan and engage SAPD in community outreach promoting safe neighborhoods. Create a high-bandwidth node in the NE District 10 allowing for development of data centers, tech companies resulting in jobs and economic development.

**Any additional legal limits placed on speech?** No

**Support restrictions on ownership of firearms?** No

**How to improve use of eminent domain?** When the US Supreme Court decided Kelo v. City of New London (2005); I was disappointed and thus opened the floodgates for Municipal Governments to pull the rug out from under a business or home owner. However, I believe this issue needs to be addressed to the benefit of the business and landowners; to not make it easy for the government to take one's property.

**3 CoSA programs you'd terminate?** Good Question! I don't know? However, I do believe there is too much bureaucracy and surely every department can and should scale down reducing overhead and expenditures.

**Support SAPD banning chokeholds and no-knock warrants?** Yes

**Support decrim possession of marijuana?** No

**Support SAPD hiring more officers?** Yes

**Support repealing victimless crime ordinances?** No

**View on the state of policing in America?** A municipal government (City) needs a strong and regulated law enforcement department. If not, crime would run rampant. Collaborate and strategize with SAPD for community engagement creating a line of communications and presence.

**Changes you'd make to the Complaint and Administrative Review Board (CARB) to increased oversight/trust?** I would like to review current CARB policies and lack thereof and move forward with the goal of working together.

**Add'l comments / clarifications:** I am not familiar with or not agree with the benchmark set in policy in regards to #

**Support reduction for sales tax rate?** Yes

**Support reduction in property tax rate?** Yes

**Support repealing occupational licensing, permits?** Yes

**Support requiring signage with domestic violence resources?** Yes

**COVID-19 city response? What should be different next time?** Not having One Person with all the answers!

**Solution to reduce the burden of inflation locally?** Reduce/eliminate the local sales tax would be a starting point!

**Add'l comments / clarifications:** Mandating is a strong directive; let us be careful how and when one is proposed, much less implemented.

**Support canceling SA's Ready to Work program and tax increase that pays it?** No

**Is CPS Energy best managed by the CoSA?** No

**VIA Metro, good return on investment?** No

**Support Pre-K 4 SA program reforms?** Yes

**House America initiative, how to help the homeless population?** Homelessness is a serious problem and getting out of control. There is no quick fix. Many have Mental Health issues, some "like" living in the streets with no responsibilities and there are those who find themselves in a tough spot: there are many nonprofits who are good at working with the homeless---COSA knows not!

**How will you balance revitalization efforts, attracting investors, and fears of displacement within low-income neighborhoods?** MacMansions can and are a problem. There is a balance but also recognizing the right of a homeowner to sell their property and move one.... what the new owner does should maintain the integrity of the neighborhood both in spirit and PRICE! Property taxes begin to spiral out of hand thus creating a domino effect.

**Add'l comments / clarifications:** State Legislature dictates penal code not local municipal governments. Also, the ready-to-work program needs to be reevaluated and make public its gaps or accomplishments. The public decided to vote it in and should have the option to vote up or down.

**Support voucher program for educational funding?**

**Yes**

**Do you support public school districts mandating vaccinations not required by the State of Texas?**

**No**

**STAAR testing an appropriate prerequisite for promotion in San Antonio schools?**

**Yes**

**Support *Connected In the Classroom* initiative?**

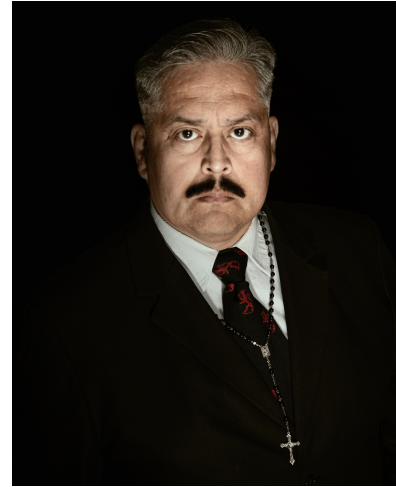
**Yes**

**How do you approach school safety in San Antonio, what solutions?** Though each School District has their policy of safety; I would engage with SAPD and local school districts to collaborate and strategize on creating an environment of safety.

**Public school's role is in teaching controversial topics?** Public Schools should stick to Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic! In High School, provide an option to learn a trade because not everyone wants to go college!

**Add'l comments / clarifications:** I would like to see an audit of Connect in Classroom to make a recommendation.

# Christopher Longoria



## Candidate for San Antonio Mayor

*Professional Photographer/Independent Award Winning Filmmaker, Independent, Creative Writing Continuing Education SMU, Biochemistry Student Research in Human Growth Hormone Labeling Techniques using Metal Chelating Chromatography using the Ferric ion under the direction of Dr. Haro PhD UTSA, Biology Major, 119 Credit hour towards a Bachelor's of Science UTSA, Associate of Arts McLennan Community College, US Navy Veteran, Electron Warfare Technician Petty Officer on the USS SIMPSON FFG-56, Ship Self Defense Force.*

**Why should voters elect you to this office?** I am the hard working regular guy that asks questions and listens to people's needs.

**Top 3 issues and how to address them?** Crime, Homelessness, City Spending. Crime: Look for ways to increase, substantially, the SAPD force so that they can accomplish Proactive Policing, rather than the Reactive policing that is currently happening. Homelessness: Involve state and federal government into programs for Mental Health, Housing and Training for jobs. This would be good for the "ready to work program" currently under used. Spending: Cut backs on City Budget. Each City Department needs to be reviewed.

**Any additional legal limits placed on speech?** No

**Support restrictions on ownership of firearms?** No

**How to improve use of eminent domain?** Form a Committee with a guideline referencing December 13, 2016, Neighborhood Improvements Community Bond Committee with a cornerstone of the Neighborhood Improvements Bond proposal is that it will not result in any permanent residential displacement. Eminent domain will not be used to force property owners to sell.

**Support relationships between consenting adults?** No

**3 CoSA programs you'd terminate?** Ready to Work Program: Over budgeted very little participation in the program. SAPD "HOT SPOT" Program: It is an ineffective program that did not work in the 1970's and will not work now. Defund the Dedicated Resiliency, Energy Efficiency, and Sustainability Fund as part of the FY2023 City Budget.

**Support SAPD banning chokeholds and no-knock warrants?** Yes

**Support decrim possession of marijuana?** No

**Support SAPD hiring more officers?** Yes

**Support repealing victimless crime ordinances?** No

**View on the state of policing in America?** The state of policing in America is in trouble. San Antonio is no different. With more money dedicated to recruiting the very best people for the job. Proactive Policing is best and with an adequate amount of personnel on the force to carry out that mission.

**Changes you'd make to the Complaint and Administrative Review Board (CARB) to increased oversight/trust?** None. The SAPD IA does a good job policing their own.

**Support reduction for sales tax rate?** Yes

**Support reduction in property tax rate?** Yes

**Support repealing occupational licensing, permits?** Yes

**Support requiring signage with domestic violence resources?** Yes

**COVID-19 city response? What should be different next time?** Understand the illness and what it attacks and create options on how individuals protect themselves and who were the more susceptible to such an illness. DO NOT Force children not affected by an illness to take unproven Vaccines. No lock downs. No mandates. No forced Vaccinations, It was quite shocking how quickly everyone gave up all rights at the drop of a hat.

**Solution to reduce the burden of inflation locally?** Maybe, for the city, not to hand out tons of cash from the federal government funds. Reduce regulations on businesses. Reduce property and local sales taxes to adjust for inflation.

**Support canceling SA's Ready to Work program and tax increase that pays it?** Yes

**Is CPS Energy best managed by the CoSA?** Yes

**VIA Metro, good return on investment?** No

**Support Pre-K 4 SA program reforms?** Yes

**House America initiative, how to help the homeless population?** I would uphold the law in the oath taken when a candidate and as a sitting Mayor. We do not ignore laws we do like. If that is so then have the people decide to change that ordinance or

law. Then processing the homeless into Mental Health Hospitals, and proper institutions to their needs and then into housing and education for job training. Hard choice has to be made because ignoring this problem is no longer acceptable.

**How will you balance revitalization efforts, attracting investors, and fears of displacement within low-income neighborhoods?** Tax incentives for those businesses to finance home improvement programs and to work with city programs in place. Put policy in place not to demolish investment homes in low-income neighborhoods but to refurbish and add to the neighborhood community centers and cornerstone commercial buildings revitalization.

**Support voucher program for educational funding?**

**Yes**

**Do you support public school districts mandating vaccinations not required by the State of Texas?**

**No**

**STAAR testing an appropriate prerequisite for promotion in San Antonio schools?**

**Yes**

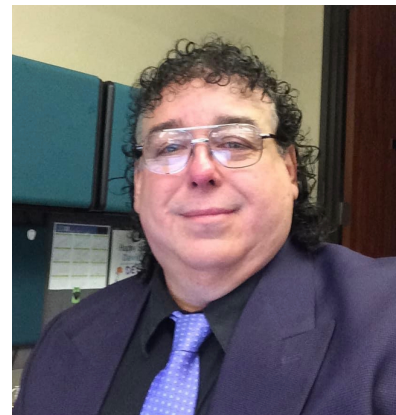
**Support *Connected In the Classroom* initiative?**

**No**

**How do you approach school safety in San Antonio, what solutions?** Adopt a city code that mandates mock intruder access into all schools in the City of San Antonio. Then enforce such code.

**Public school's role is in teaching controversial topics?** This is not the public school's role to teach or interact with students on those controversial topics.

# David Allan Lara



## Candidate for San Antonio City Council District 9

*I've lived my entire life in San Antonio, Texas and attended Jefferson high school. Attended Texas State technical College in Waco, Texas. Former president of the Texas Corvette association 1994. Charity sponsor for the Brighton school of the blind.*

**Why should voters elect you to this office?** If you want honesty and integrity. I am encouraging you to exercise your right to vote and let your voice be heard for the election on Saturday, May 6, 2023 for David Allan Lara District 9 City Councilman. The current councilman only has one term left of eligibility, so a change is going to have to be made. Let's be proactive now and vote David Allan Lara for the future of the community of district 9.

**Top 3 issues and how to address them?** 1. Safety of all students on the school campuses. Address: If I was elected, I would work with the police departments on a plan of proper procedures to protect students in all school campuses. Parents must feel confident of safety steps taken for their children in school.

2. Energy. Address: if I was elected, I would work with CPS and San Antonio Water Board on making sure that the city of San Antonio has adequate power and water for any kind of severe weather situation and also have them submit a plan of supply for the growth of our city.

3. Education. Address: to continue the growth and strengthen the educational programs. Budgeting funds so no child is left behind. So they can grow up to better themselves by having a good career.

**Any additional legal limits placed on speech?** No

**Support restrictions on ownership of firearms?** No

**How to improve use of eminent domain?** The city of San Antonio does have guidelines and procedures for this issue of eminent domain. If I was elected, I would make sure that the guidelines and procedures were carried out properly without any unfair advantage to large corporations. Also if there are any disadvantages, I would discuss with the mayor and other council members of restructuring it to where it would be that property owners would be fairly compensated.

**Support relationships between consenting adults?** Yes

**3 CoSA programs you'd terminate?** Research would have to be done on what programs are not working in our city to see if they need to be terminated or restructured.

**Support SAPD banning chokeholds and no-knock warrants?** No

**Support decrim possession of marijuana?** No

**Support SAPD hiring more officers?** Yes

**Support repealing victimless crime ordinances?** No

**View on the state of policing in America?** If I was elected, I would work with the police department on a plan of proper procedures to protect students in all school campuses. Parents must feel confident of safety steps taken for their children in school.

**Changes you'd make to the Complaint and Administrative Review Board (CARB) to increased oversight/trust?** Conduct a review of the whole program, and most likely totally reconstruct to build a new budget, proper staffing, and also to create a strong power of influence policy so trust can be restored for the civilians.

**Add'l comments / clarifications:** As far as ownership of certain types of firearms. It's not the gun that kills people. These tragedies the majority of time have been caused by mentally unstable people. In our constitution it said we do have "the right to bear arms" at the time when that was written things were definitely different compared to today. I feel the solution would be a 5 to 7 day waiting period to purchase a gun. That would give more time for law-enforcement to do a more thorough background check. Also mandate and develop a psychological test. 4.0 ounces of marijuana to me would be considered a lot to have on them without having the suspicion of the intent to distribute and sell. Also would conflict with state laws.

**Support reduction for sales tax rate?** No

**Support reduction in property tax rate?** Yes

**Support repealing occupational licensing, permits?** No

**Support requiring signage with domestic violence resources?** Yes

**COVID-19 city response? What should be different next time?** The city mayor and the county judge did an excellent job handling the situation with monitoring the pandemic levels in Bexar county. By making decisions which were best for our community, which may have differ from state recommendations from our governor.

**Solution to reduce the burden of inflation locally?** I would create reforms on increasing labor wages to compensate for the rate of inflation.



**Add'l comments / clarifications:** The drawback to creating reforms for labor wages due to inflation, causes both to escalate higher and higher. If wages go up, so does inflation or when inflation goes up, wages have to be increased. This has been continuing for the last couple of decades. Until we can get inflation in control the demand for higher wages will stabilize. As far as not lowering sales tax. It takes money to run a city as large as San Antonio.

**Support canceling SA's *Ready to Work* program and tax increase that pays it? Yes**

**Is CPS Energy best managed by the CoSA?**

**Yes**

**VIA Metro, good return on investment?**

**Yes**

**Support *Pre-K 4 SA* program reforms?**

**No**

**House America initiative, how to help the homeless population?** Yes! The homeless population in the city of San Antonio downtown area has worsened. It affects the impression of our city's tourist industry. Housing for the homeless needs to be created providing that they will not destroy what we create for them. It is very important that these government funds need to be used wisely.

**How will you balance revitalization efforts, attracting investors, and fears of displacement within low-income neighborhoods?**

My effort would be in convincing them that labor rates and cost of living is far more inexpensive in San Antonio compared to the majority of the cities in the US.

**Support voucher program for educational funding?**

**No**

**Do you support public school districts mandating vaccinations not required by the State of Texas?**

**No**

**STAAR testing an appropriate prerequisite for promotion in San Antonio schools?**

**Yes**

**Support *Connected In the Classroom* initiative?**

**Yes**

**How do you approach school safety in San Antonio, what solutions?** I feel very strongly about this topic. The mayor and city Council along with education (district 20) officials need to work strongly with the police departments with proper procedure programs for active shooters. Intensive training for police officers also mandating a schedule of training procedures throughout the school year so that student parents can see and to have trust with school safety.

**Public school's role is in teaching controversial topics?** It also needs to be taught in school. A lot of children come from single parents that work a lot of hours, and some may not spend enough time with their children to speak in depth about these subjects. Also to educate with the correct information.

# Denise Gutierrez



## Candidate for San Antonio City Council District 2

*UTSA 1987 Political Science graduate with a minor in Fine Arts. Former school NISD teacher for 3 years. Built and expanded my Interior Design /Subcontractor business for 25 years. Now, I partner with my husband in our real estate and farm investment.*

**Why should voters elect you to this office?** I am the most qualified and well rounded business person versed on political policy and community advocacy. Professionally, self made and capable of dealing with various aspects of our city issues.

**Top 3 issues and how to address them?** Crime.... Number one issue that impacts every individual and business owner negatively if not addressed correctly by the city. Homelessness is evident in every district and every major intersection. Our government has spent millions upon million of our tax dollars toward reducing this issue and it continues to fail. New business-like approach needs to be enacted. It's not the role of the government to tax one group into the same issue "homelessness@ we are trying to fix. Taxes/Appraisal. Our current incentives for major multi million projects are backfiring on the small property owner. Zero taxes by one entity pushes higher financial responsibility to the working class that can't afford to carry the burden.

**Any additional legal limits placed on speech?** No

**Support restrictions on ownership of firearms?** No

**How to improve use of eminent domain?** Compensate a legacy property owner in a manner similar to a civil trial with damages. There would be a fair market value with the value determined by an agreed upon third party professional appraiser and bids to either relocate in its entirety to similar property or cash compensation for the ongoing value of the business and lost future income. This does not make the affected seller completely whole so an additional civil penalty can be paid to fairly compensate the unwilling seller.

**Support relationships between consenting adults?** Yes

**3 CoSA programs you'd terminate?** CAAP, Agenda based Green New Deals are costly and unwarranted in a city with a low income population. The 2023 Bond should not be started until the 2017 has been finished. No need to start paying high interest.

PreK4SA should not be funded through our taxes for 2k students while taxpayers are already paying high school taxes.

**Add'l comments / clarifications:** The question regarding consenting adults is too vague to answer .

**Support SAPD banning chokeholds and no-knock warrants?** Yes

**Support decrim possession of marijuana?** No

**Support SAPD hiring more officers?** Yes

**Support repealing victimless crime ordinances?** No

**View on the state of policing in America?** Police need to be humanized and respected. This needs to start at home and in the schools. The police force needs more casual contact with the community and not be isolated in glass and steel boxes. There should be an off duty uniform that police can wear during off hours at their discretion. This would be particularly helpful in youth mentoring activities such as Scouts or Explorers, fairs, or amusement venues. I would issue every officer including K9 protection "bullet" proof vests and gear. They are protecting us, we should protect them.

**Changes you'd make to the Complaint and Administrative Review Board (CARB) to increased oversight/trust?** I would modify its selection so that more weight is given to successful community leaders rather than police selected appointees.

**Add'l comments / clarifications:** No question. Does vagrancy have no real victim? No. Does it lead to lost property value? Increase neighborhood crime? In my aspect the greater good is restricting vagrancy for the better good.

**Support reduction for sales tax rate?** No

**Support reduction in property tax rate?** Yes

**Support repealing occupational licensing, permits?** Yes

**Support requiring signage with domestic violence resources?** No

**COVID-19 city response? What should be different next time?** Clear and timely communication by way of news outlets and texts. No business interruption mandates.

**Solution to reduce the burden of inflation locally?** Bring in competition. Have duplicate energy generation capabilities. For every kilowatt produced by green energy, have an equal size scalable energy capability. Our ratepayers will make money selling power to municipalities that do not have enough power of their own.

**Add'l comments / clarifications:** (Tax rate?) it should be the tax assessor job to set all property in the district at full market value, it's not being done. It is the responsibility of every taxing organization to set a budget in conjunction with citizen input. The tax collected should equal no more than the passed budget. In this instance we would see tax rates fall during property value inflation. There would be a net zero tax increase without voter approval if the higher budgets.

**Support canceling SA's *Ready to Work* program and tax increase that pays it? Yes**

**Is CPS Energy best managed by the CoSA? Yes**

**VIA Metro, good return on investment? No**

**Support *Pre-K 4 SA* program reforms? Yes**

**House America initiative, how to help the homeless population?** Public private corporate partnership similar to Habitat could be attempted for the able body for both the homeowner and taxpayer for their success.

**How will you balance revitalization efforts, attracting investors, and fears of displacement within low-income neighborhoods?** The investors would need to participate in revitalizing infrastructure by way of the redevelopment plans. Not just their sidewalk would be replaced but surrounding neighbors.

For instance, that any tax incentive given to a developer should be shared within the immediate community to offset the long term increase of property tax. Which they have saddled their neighbors with and then left town.

**Add'l comments / clarifications:** Pre K should be eliminated. The county is responsible for ISD's; this is double taxation.

**Support voucher program for educational funding? No**

**Do you support public school districts mandating vaccinations not required by the State of Texas? No**

**STAAR testing an appropriate prerequisite for promotion in San Antonio schools? Yes**

**Support *Connected In the Classroom* initiative? No**

**How do you approach school safety in San Antonio, what solutions?** The DiAS has no authority over our school districts. Stop funding school programs and PreK 4 SA. It's the county role to supervise underperforming schools, not the DIAS.

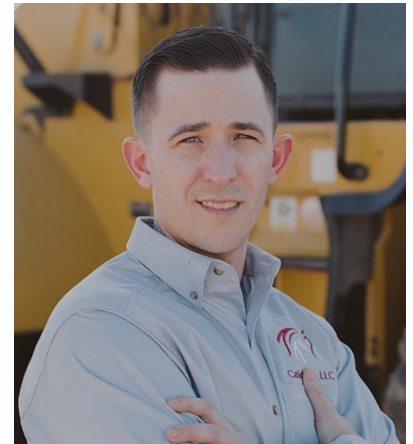
**Public school's role is in teaching controversial topics?** Public schools should not partake in parental roles.

**Add'l comments / clarifications:** Many Educational or ISD related questions do not apply to city council and their role as local elected officials.

# Christopher Schuchardt

Candidate for San Antonio Mayor

*San Antonio Local. Texas A&M graduate. Started my company when I was 26 years old.*



**Why should voters elect you to this office?** San Antonio's current mayor and city council are consumed by special interests and distracted by issues that are best handled at the state and federal level. There needs to be leadership coming out of the mayor's office that will push for a refocus on providing real economic growth and opportunity, responsible spending and budgeting and ensuring the safety and security of San Antonio's neighborhoods.

**Top 3 issues and how to address them?** Lack of private economic development. Stifling bureaucratic hurdles to development. Wasteful spending and lack of transparency. Clout chasers.

**Any additional legal limits placed on speech?** No

**Support restrictions on ownership of firearms?** No

**How to improve use of eminent domain?** In any eminent domain case, the governmental entity enacting it should be required to pay for any and all legal expenses incurred by the property owner, should they opt to fight it. Doing so will ensure governments only use eminent domain for its truly stated purpose and will offer fair compensation from the start.

**Support relationships between consenting adults?** No

**3 CoSA programs you'd terminate?** I believe an audit is needed for every city department/program to determine its cost effectiveness, efficiency and benefit to the taxpayer.

**Support SAPD banning chokeholds and no-knock warrants?** No

**Support decrim possession of marijuana?** No

**Support SAPD hiring more officers?** Yes

**Support repealing victimless crime ordinances?** No

**View on the state of policing in America?** I believe the crime statistics and a drive around San Antonio tell you all you need to know about policing, or lack of it. SAPD needs new leadership and mission clarity. Economic progress and investment are what lifts people out of poverty and in turn reduces crime. Neither of those two will take place or yield max results without law and order.

**Changes you'd make to the Complaint and Administrative Review Board (CARB) to increased oversight/trust?** There is a difference between oversight and accountability. Oversight will just create more bureaucracy. I'm in favor of implementing measures to allow for more civilian accountability. The citizens get to hold the Sheriff accountable every four years through elections, I don't see why they can't have the same say in the head of SAPD. I believe this topic is something that needs further attention.

**Add'l comments / clarifications:** I'm not sure how one can consider vagrancy and possession of a controlled substance as not having a clear victim. Often, they go hand in hand. Areas where drug use and vagrancy are prevalent, are shown to have decreased economic activity. Just look at Downtown. I would consider the loss in economy to that area to be an extreme negative that creates many victims.

**Support reduction for sales tax rate?** Yes

**Support reduction in property tax rate?** Yes

**Support repealing occupational licensing, permits?** Yes

**Support requiring signage with domestic violence resources?** No

**COVID-19 city response? What should be different next time?** Reading off statistics, giving conflicting recommendations and having no clear plan in place, shows a lack of leadership. While I personally believe most of the measures put in place should have been left up to individuals and businesses, I think the local government could have deployed more resources and employed more assets to formulate a response and plan that would have led to more confidence among residents and businesses.

**Solution to reduce the burden of inflation locally?** Inflation is caused by one thing: government spending. Reducing property tax burden and wasteful spending by local governments is a start at the local level.

**Support canceling SA's Ready to Work program and tax increase that pays it?** Yes

**Is CPS Energy best managed by the CoSA?** No

**VIA Metro, good return on investment?** No

**Support Pre-K 4 SA program reforms?** Yes

**House America initiative, how to help the homeless population?** Any solutions put in place should carry requirements of the individuals being helped. Including mandatory drug testing and search for employment. Everyone wants a roof over their head. But not everyone wants it and responsibility. Those who choose not to accept the responsibility that comes with help should not receive the help. Nor should they be allowed to remain on the streets and be a detriment to public welfare and safety.

**How will you balance revitalization efforts, attracting investors, and fears of displacement within low-income neighborhoods?** This approach only ensures these areas remain "low income". I support freezing property taxes for homeowners and retirees over 65 years of age, to ensure they are not displaced by revitalization efforts and the resulting increased values. Other than that, to not allow for revitalization and investment in these areas will result in deterioration and the lack of opportunity and economic progress will result in generational poverty. Generational poverty that we unfortunately see way too much of in this town.

**Add'l comments / clarifications:** CPS whether remaining owned by the city or private interests needs to be shielded from special interests that distract and hamper it from fulfilling its mission: providing reliable and affordable energy to residents.

**Support voucher program for educational funding?**

**Yes**

**Do you support public school districts mandating vaccinations not required by the State of Texas?**

**No**

**STAAR testing an appropriate prerequisite for promotion in San Antonio schools?**

**No**

**Support *Connected In the Classroom* initiative?**

**No**

**How do you approach school safety in San Antonio, what solutions?** I believe each campus should have a minimum of 2 full time police officers at all times. Should an intruder make way into a school, there should be systems and protocols in place to isolate them, so they're not allowed free reign of the property. This will also help responding law enforcement locate and engage the intruder in a more effective and efficient manner.

**Public school's role is in teaching controversial topics?** Reading, math, history (pretty or not) and science. Our graduates need a proficiency in these topics that satisfies the job market and allows for them to have the best chances of being successful in life. We do not have that level of proficiency at this time.

# Ernest Salinas



Candidate for San Antonio City Council District 1

*Former President of the Dellview Area Neighborhood Association. Left USAA after 31-year of employment. Believe we must keep our Communities Safe & Clean.*

**Why should voters elect you to this office?** I believe we must Put Residents First (our taxpayers!)

**Top 3 issues and how to address them?** Crime, Taxes, & lack of representation from our elected. Hire more Police Officers (Proactive policing), Up Homestead Exemption to 20%, & Represent our Tax Payers by holding CoSA accountable.

**Any additional legal limits placed on speech?** No

**Support restrictions on ownership of firearms?** No

**How to improve use of eminent domain?** Would support Eminent Domain in cases where the lives of people occupying property is life threatening.

**Support relationships between consenting adults?** Yes

**3 CoSA programs you'd terminate?** I would need to review city programs that are not effective.

**Add'l comments / clarifications:** I believe children must have a foundation of a man & women in a family.



**Support SAPD banning chokeholds and no-knock warrants?** Yes

**Support decrim possession of marijuana?** No

**Support SAPD hiring more officers?** Yes

**Support repealing victimless crime ordinances?** No

**View on the state of policing in America?** I would seek more proactive policing in our communities. Build respect on both sides and build bridges with the youth.

**Changes you'd make to the Complaint and Administrative Review Board (CARB) to increased oversight/trust?** I feel the CoSA has a legal obligation to make this happen.

**Support reduction for sales tax rate?** Yes

**Support reduction in property tax rate?** Yes

**Support repealing occupational licensing, permits?** Yes

**Support requiring signage with domestic violence resources?** No

**COVID-19 city response? What should be different next time?** Our rights are violated by the local government.

**Solution to reduce the burden of inflation locally?** Neighbors helping neighbors.

**Support canceling SA's Ready to Work program and tax increase that pays it?** Yes

**Is CPS Energy best managed by the CoSA?** No

**VIA Metro, good return on investment?** No

**Support Pre-K 4 SA program reforms?** Yes

**House America initiative, how to help the homeless population?** I would like to conduct financial audits on departments administering these programs.

**How will you balance revitalization efforts, attracting investors, and fears of displacement within low-income neighborhoods?** I would like to see little to no interest grants for these types of neighborhood improvements.

**Support voucher program for educational funding?** Yes

**Do you support public school districts mandating vaccinations not required by the State of Texas?** No

**STAAR testing an appropriate prerequisite for promotion in San Antonio schools?** No

**Support Connected In the Classroom initiative?** Yes

**How do you approach school safety in San Antonio, what solutions?** School Choice. Parents should have a say on where they feel their children will be safe.

**Public school's role is in teaching controversial topics?** It is not the public school's place to parent.

# Jarrett Lipman



## Candidate for San Antonio City Council District 9

Jarrett is driven to serve. For 15 years, he served students and families as the high school band director at Johnson High School. He recently graduated from UTSA with a Master's in Public Administration and a Certificate in Urban and Regional Planning. Now, he wants to serve as your representative on San Antonio's city council. He believes there's a bigger vision for what our community can be and wants to help the city reach its full potential. Jarrett is currently a Part-Time Lecturer in Music Education at Texas State University. In October of 2022, Jarrett was one of 30 music educators nationwide to receive the Music Teachers of Excellence award from the Country Music Association (CMA) Foundation and in 2016 he was Named an H-E-B Outstanding Educator Finalist in the "Rising Young Star" Category (one of five statewide). Jarrett regularly volunteers at the San Antonio Food Bank to help fight hunger in San Antonio and the surrounding communities and also with Sleep in Heavenly Peace to build and assemble bunk beds for children in need who don't have a bed to sleep in. He believes in "boots on the ground" leadership, and will be out in the community every day if elected as your Councilman.

**Why should voters elect you to this office?** I have outstanding written and verbal communication skills. I am a great relationship builder because I am a better listener. I am empathetic and compassionate. I have a strong work ethic and will work as hard as it takes to get the job done. I am not only interested when it suits me, but committed to seeing tasks through until their completion. I am good at motivating those around me and understanding how to move a team forward. I am a consensus builder and can rally the troops around a cause. I never give up and I am not afraid to swing and miss. I'll come back stronger for it.

**Top 3 issues and how to address them?** The most pressing issues for San Antonio include improving public safety and supporting law enforcement, repairing critical infrastructure, and providing access to affordable and reliable public utilities. Council needs to be fiscally responsible with budgeting and continue to manage or eliminate wasteful expenditures to keep property taxes lower.

**Any additional legal limits placed on speech?** No

**Support restrictions on ownership of firearms?** No

**How to improve use of eminent domain?** We should not take property due to poor planning or lack of respect/understanding for the Constitution. We need to be proactive in situations where we have ideas for growth. Before we commit to a plan, we should explore if ALL players are on board before we commit to a direction or project. Let's stay out of trouble, not try to GET out of trouble after it's too late.

**Support relationships between consenting adults?** Yes

**3 CoSA programs you'd terminate?** Ready to Work, Pre-K-4-SA, and either the Diversity & Equity Initiatives or HeadStart. These programs should be left up to private enterprises or industries. They cost the taxpayers way too much money in staffing and extend way beyond the scope of the City Charter. We already pay for public school taxes, Pre-K-4-SA is double taxation. Diversity & Equity initiatives should be inherent in business through state law, and we don't need another full department dedicated to this. Ready to Work is a disaster. The voters were taken advantage of. It is a duplicate of workforce training programs already available. Get the city government out of things it shouldn't be involved in.

**Add'l comments / clarifications:** These programs should be left up to private enterprises or industries. They cost the taxpayers way too much money in staffing and extend way beyond the scope of the City Charter. We already pay for public school taxes, Pre-K-4-SA is double taxation. Diversity & Equity initiatives should be inherent in business through state law, and we don't need another full department dedicated to this. Ready to Work is a disaster. The voters were taken advantage of. It is a duplicate of workforce training programs already available. Get the city government out of things it shouldn't be involved in.

**Support SAPD banning chokeholds and no-knock warrants?** Yes

**Support decrim possession of marijuana?** No

**Support SAPD hiring more officers?** Yes

**Support repealing victimless crime ordinances?** No

**View on the state of policing in America?** The residents of District 9 want to feel safe in their neighborhoods and see a reduction in crime. I will address this through strong support for our law enforcement, focusing on improving officer morale. SAPD needs additional investment in wages, benefits, liability protection, and aggressive support for recruiting new officers. Filling vacant positions and providing more officers will help combat crime. We must also work with neighborhood/property associations to target areas needing enforcement and improve neighborhood watch organizations. We need to improve lighting and security at local businesses to reduce property break-ins. Even if it does not manage the DA, Council needs to show strong support for the DA prosecuting criminals and to hold them accountable. We are trying to do too much with too little. We need to entice new applicants to the Police Academy to grow our force. We need to repair relationships with law enforcement by fully funding their salaries, pension, and benefits and supporting liability protection. It is crucial to hold officers accountable for misconduct and

ensure egregious infractions result in dismissal. With that said, we also must continue to focus on all of the positive things the majority of officers do to protect the citizens of San Antonio and empower them to make decisions to maintain law and order. I plan to support the Police Chief's vision for the department and to find means to provide additional resources to grow the workforce. Officers should be able to perform proactive police work in the interest of public safety without fear of termination or retribution.

**Changes you'd make to the Complaint and Administrative Review Board (CARB) to increased oversight/trust?** We need to ensure that the institutes reviewing this are truly non-partisan and do not approach with an anti-police stance. We should pursue individuals and organizations, like a jury selection process but more carefully, to ensure we are finding people with no bias towards or against law enforcement. I am concerned that those who are charged with evaluating police already have an agenda. The only agenda should be protecting those who protect public safety.

**Support reduction for sales tax rate?** Yes

**Support reduction in property tax rate?** Yes

**Support repealing occupational licensing, permits?** Yes

**Support requiring signage with domestic violence resources?** Yes

**COVID-19 city response? What should be different next time?** As Councilman, I would not have supported shutting down businesses. If HEB remained open, I would have let business owners make their own decisions. I recognize the decision to close was made at the state level, but I would have advocated to re-open as soon as possible and return the decision to the business owners. I also would not have tried to interfere in the management of the public schools and would have supported families who decided to send their students for in-person learning and those who chose to keep their students home. It comes down to individual freedom and choice. The choice to use masks or vaccinate is an individual one, and the government should regulate this.

**Solution to reduce the burden of inflation locally?** Cut spending, cut programs that do not support infrastructure, utilities, and public safety. Cut VIA tax. Explore methods to grow and reduce business stress, including expanding opportunity or TIRZ zones. We need to look at projects supporting infrastructure that make it easier for new businesses to start, like street and parking or utility access. Permitting process in San Antonio is difficult for new businesses. We can ease these requirements or restrictions, lowering consumer prices. If we can make the area appealing, businesses will open, people will want to frequent them, and prices will stabilize. Businesses will hire workers. They should be doing workforce training, not San Antonio. Savings passed on to consumers.

**Support canceling SA's Ready to Work program and tax increase that pays it?** Yes

**Is CPS Energy best managed by the CoSA?** No

**VIA Metro, good return on investment?** No

**Support Pre-K 4 SA program reforms?** Yes

**House America initiative, how to help the homeless population?** This complex issue cannot be fixed with a "one size fits all" approach. We should use different strategies depending on why the individual is homeless. Improve access to mental health services. Review and fix Haven for Hope. Ensure other existing funded programs are doing what they're supposed to do. Improve partnerships and coordination with faith-based organizations. Cite and pick up panhandlers or those sleeping in public places. What you allow to continue will continue.

**How will you balance revitalization efforts, attracting investors, and fears of displacement within low-income neighborhoods?**

While many areas in District 9 have been built out, land is still available for the new development of houses and businesses. With that said, infill development in the southern ends of the district is inevitable, and we will begin to face issues with gentrification in the years to come. As Councilman, I will advocate for the existing homeowners in the district, and explore freezing property taxes for long-time residents or exploring policies that allow residents whose taxes have grown more than 10% to defer property tax payments until they sell. This requires discussion at the local and state level, but it is essential we do not tax people out of their homes as we continue to grow our city.

**Support voucher program for educational funding?** Yes

**Do you support public school districts mandating vaccinations not required by the State of Texas?** No

**STAAR testing an appropriate prerequisite for promotion in San Antonio schools?** No

**Support Connected In the Classroom initiative?** Yes

**How do you approach school safety in San Antonio, what solutions?** I will not address school safety on the City Council. This is a local ISD and state issue.

**Public school's role is in teaching controversial topics?** The public school should focus on English, history, mathematics, science, and fine arts. If the issues above are critical to teaching a subject, teach it. Otherwise, they should not be giving special accommodations to any issue above and should avoid these topics that are best left to parents to teach. The top issues are sneaky - council needs to stay in its lane.



# Jacob Chapa

Candidate for San Antonio City Council District 7

*Native San Antonian, have worked at a debt collection law firm for almost two years, will be graduating from UTSA in May with B.A. in political science.*

**Why should voters elect you to this office?** I have based my campaign strictly on the demands of District 7 constituents. I am not one to be wrapped up in and fraught with ideological battles, virtue signaling or identity politics. My stances are based on data points, statistics, and strategies those of which are poised to bring the prosperity and wellbeing that San Antonians have deserved for a long time. If elected I promise to instate a political culture of respect and investment in law enforcement and engaging in logical debates not ideological debates, because only logic can bring results.

**Top 3 issues and how to address them?** First is crime reduction; I have a hawkish stance on crime however I feel that is necessary to combat the noticeable increase. Second, property tax relief (20% homestead exemption) and overall relief from inflationary pressure. Third, school safety; both regarding increasing mental health services for students and increasing school safety capabilities.

**Any additional legal limits placed on speech?** No

**Support restrictions on ownership of firearms?** No

**How to improve use of eminent domain?** Honoring private property as one of the fundamental components of true democracy. As well as always attempting to decrease the size of city government, because doing so requires less revenue which equals lower taxes.

**Support relationships between consenting adults?** Yes

**3 CoSA programs you'd terminate?** Pre-K for SA, it is a form of double taxation. Young children are already offered public pre-k education at the expense of property taxes.

SA Climate Ready, I believe that weatherization and green energy transition should be left for the private sector to adopt naturally without unnecessary taxpayer funds.

**Support SAPD banning chokeholds and no-knock warrants?** Yes

**Support decrim possession of marijuana?** Yes

**Support SAPD hiring more officers?** Yes

**Support repealing victimless crime ordinances?** No

**View on the state of policing in America?** The pseudo culture war on police must end, there must be a constant culture of respect and investment for law enforcement. San Antonio has a crime rate of 1:20 people but an officer to civilian ratio of 1:508. This disparity must be fixed by incentivizing more people to want to become police officers by offering; more leverage when negotiating, more and better benefits (paid time off).

**Changes you'd make to the Complaint and Administrative Review Board (CARB) to increased oversight/trust?** Create a detailed interactive database regarding all officer information (possible offenses) and hold randomized public forums where individuals can describe their experiences with SAPD.

**Support reduction for sales tax rate?** Yes

**Support reduction in property tax rate?** Yes

**Support repealing occupational licensing, permits?** Yes

**Support requiring signage with domestic violence resources?** Yes

**COVID-19 city response? What should be different next time?** Less closures, a less centralized response. Respect for individual sovereignty to make their own decisions regarding exposure and health.

**Solution to reduce the burden of inflation locally?** Temporarily cutting spending allows supply to even out with demand, cutting energy efficiency requirements which inflate home prices, reimbursing utility windfalls 100% back to consumers to maximize savings.

**Support canceling SA's Ready to Work program and tax increase that pays it?** Yes

**Is CPS Energy best managed by the CoSA?** No

**VIA Metro, good return on investment?** No

**Support Pre-K 4 SA program reforms?** Yes

**House America initiative, how to help the homeless population?** Constructing more drug rehab centers, I believe this is the first and most principal step in reducing the homeless population. Offer free grooming and cosmetic services so that these newly motivated individuals can look sharp and begin a new career path which is the second step forward to prosperity.



**How will you balance revitalization efforts, attracting investors, and fears of displacement within low-income neighborhoods?**

Focus on developing the outskirts of the city to avoid overcrowding.

Attracting investors by easing off unnecessary regulations.

Always respecting the fact that in the majority of cases a person's home is their largest investment and they do not want to see their asset turn into a liability. So, making sure that new low-income housing construction is built around areas with similar property values.

**Support voucher program for educational funding?**

**Yes**

**Do you support public school districts mandating vaccinations not required by the State of Texas?**

**No**

**STAAR testing an appropriate prerequisite for promotion in San Antonio schools?**

**No**

**Support *Connected In the Classroom* initiative?**

**Yes**

**How do you approach school safety in San Antonio, what solutions?** By lobbying Bexar County to increase their hotel occupancy tax from 1.75 to 2.00 and specifically earmarking the 0.25% increase to go towards enhancing school safety capabilities namely acquiring walk through metal detectors.

**Public school's role is in teaching controversial topics?** No, arithmetic and unbiased social studies should be the only circular taught in my opinion. Political and sexual ideology/identity is something for students to devise in their private lives.

**Add'l comments / clarifications:**

[jacobchapasaccd7.odoo.com/@/](http://jacobchapasaccd7.odoo.com/@/) there is a power point within my website that breaks down the specifics of leveraging the county HOT for school safety purposes.

# Sandragrace Martinez

Candidate for San Antonio City Council District 7

*I completed a B.A. in Political Science from UTSA and Gregory Luna Fellow Scholar. In 2007 I earned a master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from St. Mary's University, emphasizing System Theory. I worked as a Legislative Aide in the Texas Senate, I am a former Parole Officer and investigator with Child Protective Services. I am a practicing Licensed Professional Counselor and President/CEO of a start-up nonprofit called Mental Wellness Connections.*



**Why should voters elect you to this office?** My profession depends on the effectiveness and the ability to look at complex systems of rules, procedures, and behaviors to diagnose problems impeding growth and progress. Identifying areas critical to implementing the proper redirections and alterations necessary for achieving the agreed-upon preferred outcomes. This is the basis of my profession and the experience I bring to our city council seat.

**Top 3 issues and how to address them?** As of today: Crime, financial issues to include taxation on homes, infrastructure.

**Any additional legal limits placed on speech?** No

**Support restrictions on ownership of firearms?** Yes

**How to improve use of eminent domain?** Good question. I ran for Texas Land Commissioner last year and came across wonderful people who advocate Eminent Domain not to be abused. They fight the good fight up at the Capitol or in Austin, TX. I stand against nonsensical "public use" of private land under Eminent Domain. I would not be easily convinced to pull the trigger on the Eminent Domain argument when elected.

**3 CoSA programs you'd terminate?** Honestly sir or ma'am I do not have the power to terminate as the potential next city councilwoman. I am inclined to audit the effectiveness of some nonprofits using their outcomes matrices.

**Support SAPD banning chokeholds and no-knock warrants?** Yes

**Support decrim possession of marijuana?** Yes

**Support SAPD hiring more officers?** Yes

**View on the state of policing in America?** 3 CORE IDEA's I believe in as per Sir Robert Peel's policing policy:

The goal is preventing crime, not catching criminals. If the police stop crime before it happens, we don't have to punish citizens or suppress their rights. An effective police department doesn't have high arrest stats; its community has low crime rates.

The key to preventing crime is earning public support. Every community member must share the responsibility of preventing crime, as if they were all volunteer members of the force. They will only accept this responsibility if the community supports and trusts the police.

The police earn public support by respecting community principles. Winning public approval requires hard work to build reputation: enforcing the laws impartially, hiring officers who represent and understand the community, and using force only as a last resort. My goal would be to encourage public participation or community involvement to reap the payoffs of lower crime rates. It is time to focus on the crime rate which has escalated in recent years. Side note: Crime maps on realtor sites devalue homes and scale homes, cars, and rental insurance.

**Changes you'd make to the Complaint and Administrative Review Board (CARB) to increased oversight/trust?** This 14 member board is composed of 7 uniformed officers and needs a majority to make a recommendation on a case. Why so many officers? Regardless, the Chief of Police has the last decision making power.

**Support reduction for sales tax rate?** Yes

**Support reduction in property tax rate?** Yes

**Support repealing occupational licensing, permits?** Yes

**Support requiring signage with domestic violence resources?** No, The mandate of DV scenario would need to be appropriate in the application. Not all sites are appropriate for DV signage such as Chuck e Cheese's you do understand?

**COVID-19 city response? What should be different next time?** More focus and money would have been spent on mental health care services for adults, family, and children.

**Solution to reduce the burden of inflation locally?** Tighten fiscal policy, more home property tax exemption options, incentivize a robust increase in workforce, to name a few...

**Support canceling SA's Ready to Work program and tax increase that pays it?** No

**Is CPS Energy best managed by the CoSA?** Yes

**VIA Metro, good return on investment?** Yes

**Support Pre-K 4 SA program reforms?** No

**House America initiative, how to help the homeless population?** Define the spectrum of "homeless" in our city and apply necessary treatment plans or plans of action to reduce this population effectively.

**How will you balance revitalization efforts, attracting investors, and fears of displacement within low-income neighborhoods?**

I was part of the tenant side of this matter. My experience was negative in terms of the property investment owners not being in touch with the "revitalization" efforts. It appears to me and other vendors it was about financial gain at all costs rather than fostering relationships with the community, vendors, and the like.

**Add'l comments / clarifications:** I will refer to the first question in this section and see where and how the outcomes reveal success or failure in the long term. Recidivism rates are stats I review most often to qualify for "success" in investment so to speak.

**Support voucher program for educational funding?**

**No**

**Do you support public school districts mandating vaccinations not required by the State of Texas?**

**No**

**STAAR testing an appropriate prerequisite for promotion in San Antonio schools?**

**No**

**Support *Connected In the Classroom* initiative?**

**Yes**

**How do you approach school safety in San Antonio, what solutions?** I would address it from a mental health clinician standpoint. Solution-focused discourse is the beginning of modifying or creating policy at the Dias. Mental health approach and resources for safety in our schools are paramount.

**Public school's role is in teaching controversial topics?** It depends on the context, timing, and delivery of the subjects above to which some may be appropriate to teach.

**Add'l comments / clarifications:**

The voucher program is complex so it truly depends. Connected to classroom initiative has some issues to address such as those funding the initiative may be pushing their products over other corporations so not really focusing on the educational component. Other issues such as the correlation between internet access and academic success are to be closely reviewed. More access does not equal more success necessarily and unfortunately.

# Denise McVea



## Candidate for San Antonio City Council District 2

*An award-winning investigative journalist and nonprofit publisher, Denise McVea has documented corruption in San Antonio for more than a decade. She is a past New Voices Fellow in Human Rights and International Cooperation (2001-2003), a graduate of Texas Woman's University, and is currently attending Trinity Law School. She is the author of Evil Corp: Allstate Insurance, Shadow Networks, and the Corruption of a Major American City, an investigative look at the corrupt forces threatening San Antonio and the nation. She is fluent in Spanish, having lived in Mexico for more than 10 years. She is a native San Antonian and Eastsider.*

**Why should voters elect you to this office?** San Antonians have been complaining about public corruption for years, and yet elected officials refuse to even discuss the white collar crimes that are plaguing our city, especially in marginalized communities. If elected, my priority will be to ensure accountability, enforce government transparency, and root out corrupt employees assisting white collar criminal schemes that prey on vulnerable citizens.

**Top 3 issues and how to address them?** Public Corruption is our number one problem. Most of the social ills often talked about - homelessness, high taxes, public safety - are fueled by unchecked public corruption and a predatory culture of impunity that seems to have infected every aspect of local government. I would undertake an investigative analysis of the city budget, engage and educate naive council members on the forces that prey on vulnerable citizens, and when that is under control, help move the city towards more sustainable and ethical growth.

**Any additional legal limits placed on speech?** No

**Support restrictions on ownership of firearms?** Yes

**How to improve use of eminent domain?** The reality is that city employees and officials often don't even bother to invoke eminent domain when depriving citizens of their property. According to UT Law, San Antonio issued more than 600 eviction and demolition notices on OCCUPIED homes between 2015-2020, while Houston, Dallas, and Austin, in that same time span, issued only 16 similar orders - combined. In my work, I have shown how that shocking disparity is the result of unabashed corruption and white collar crime. And yet city officials have taken no action to address these abusive crimes. My point here is that corruption has eroded due process in San Antonio to such a degree that corrupt city officials do not even go to the pretense of invoking something like Eminent Domain because there are faster ways to rob vulnerable, unprotected citizens. Ask anyone on the Eastside and Westside of San Antonio.

**Support relationships between consenting adults?** Yes

**3 CoSA programs you'd terminate?** Development Services Department Strike Team, because it is used to abuse and steal property from marginalized homeowners.

Many local programs are valuable - when they are not abused by corrupt city employees. The question is whether or not they are being run according to their mission or being used as a tool for self-enrichment.

**Support SAPD banning chokeholds and no-knock warrants?** Yes

**Support decrim possession of marijuana?** Yes

**Support SAPD hiring more officers?** No

**Support repealing victimless crime ordinances?** No

**View on the state of policing in America?** American policing is in crisis. Locally, a record number of police officers are committing suicide. I have long said that police departments' protection of bad cops has created a hostile and dangerous environment for good cops. Additionally, police policies that protect bad cops have also provided a home within law enforcement for organized crime. Police leadership's unwillingness to confront internal corruption and organized crime is already beginning to have serious national security implications. I would use my platform as a city council member to raise the discussion about these crucial realities. It is imperative that someone advocate for good cops in this town.

**Changes you'd make to the Complaint and Administrative Review Board (CARB) to increased oversight/trust?** I would relentlessly demand government transparency, and take action to assure that open records act requests are timely and fully met (in all departments). I would meet with local advocates and media outlets to make sure that they get data that has been historically withheld.

**Support reduction for sales tax rate?** Yes

**Support reduction in property tax rate?** Yes

**Support repealing occupational licensing, permits?** No

**Support requiring signage with domestic violence resources?** Yes

**COVID-19 city response? What should be different next time?** I actually see San Antonio as having been one of the better performing municipalities during COVID.

**Solution to reduce the burden of inflation locally?** I would confront corruption, because organized white collar crimes, especially targeting vulnerable neighborhoods (title fraud, money laundering, etc.) have been a powerful contributor to inflation. I would work to reduce government spending by carefully examining the city budget and comparing it to real time actions. I have seen where savvy department officials have covered up irregularities in the budget that apparently are routinely overlooked by the city auditor. I would also investigate to see where some licensing requirements could safely be relaxed.

**Support canceling SA's *Ready to Work* program and tax increase that pays it?** Yes

**Is CPS Energy best managed by the CoSA?** No

**VIA Metro, good return on investment?** Yes

**Support *Pre-K 4 SA* program reforms?** Yes

**House America initiative, how to help the homeless population?** Monitor where the money is actually going. Millions have been provided to address local homelessness but programs are beset with a lack of transparency, accountability, and oversight.

**How will you balance revitalization efforts, attracting investors, and fears of displacement within low-income neighborhoods?**

Simply put, I will lead the push to hold accountable the criminal actors and corrupt employees involved in title fraud, summary evictions, abusive code enforcement, and other crimes against vulnerable homeowners in San Antonio .

**Support voucher program for educational funding?**

No

**Do you support public school districts mandating vaccinations not required by the State of Texas?**

Yes

**STAAR testing an appropriate prerequisite for promotion in San Antonio schools?**

Yes

**Support *Connected In the Classroom* initiative?**

Yes

**How do you approach school safety in San Antonio, what solutions?** Meaningful gun control, enhanced mental health access, and increased school security and reporting.

**Public school's role is in teaching controversial topics?** I believe that it is important that schools provide age-appropriate information about important social issues that affect students' lives, development, and safety.

# Lauro Bustamante

Candidate for San Antonio City Council District 1

*40yrs of practice in Texas Law, Constitutional Law, Municipal law, mediation, communications*

**Why should voters elect you to this office?** 40yrs of practice in Texas Law, Constitutional Law, Municipal law, mediation, communications

**Top 3 issues and how to address them?** Safety, health, and happiness, I would apply my 40yrs of practice in Texas Law, Constitutional Law, Municipal law, mediation, communications

**Any additional legal limits placed on speech?** No

**Support restrictions on ownership of firearms?** Yes

**How to improve use of eminent domain?** I would apply 40yrs of practice in Texas Law, Constitutional Law, Municipal law, mediation, communications

**Support relationships between consenting adults?** Yes

**3 CoSA programs you'd terminate?** I would apply 40yrs of practice in Texas Law, Constitutional Law, Municipal law, mediation, communications

**Add'l comments / clarifications:** I would apply 40yrs of practice in Texas Law, Constitutional Law, Municipal law, mediation, communications



**Support SAPD banning chokeholds and no-knock warrants?** Yes

**Support decrim possession of marijuana?** Yes

**Support SAPD hiring more officers?** Yes

**Support repealing victimless crime ordinances?** Yes

**View on the state of policing in America?** I would apply 40yrs of practice in Texas Law, Constitutional Law, Municipal law, mediation, communications

**Changes you'd make to the Complaint and Administrative Review Board (CARB) to increased oversight/trust?** I would apply 40yrs of practice in Texas Law, Constitutional Law, Municipal law, mediation, communications

**Add'l comments / clarifications:** I would apply 40yrs of practice in Texas Law, Constitutional Law, Municipal law, mediation, communications

**Support reduction for sales tax rate?** Yes

**Support reduction in property tax rate?** Yes

**Support repealing occupational licensing permits?** Yes

**Support requiring signage with domestic violence resources?** Yes

**COVID-19 city response? What should be different next time?** I would apply 40yrs of practice in Texas Law, Constitutional Law, Municipal law, mediation, communications

**Solution to reduce the burden of inflation locally?** I would apply 40yrs of practice in Texas Law, Constitutional Law, Municipal law, mediation, communications

**Add'l comments / clarifications:** I would apply 40yrs of practice in Texas Law, Constitutional Law, Municipal law, mediation, communications

**Support canceling SA's Ready to Work program and tax increase that pays it?** Yes

**Is CPS Energy best managed by the CoSA?** Yes

**VIA Metro, good return on investment?** No

**Support Pre-K 4 SA program reforms?** Yes

**House America initiative, how to help the homeless population?** I would apply 40yrs of practice in Texas Law, Constitutional Law, Municipal law, mediation, communications

**How will you balance revitalization efforts, attracting investors, and fears of displacement within low-income neighborhoods?** I would apply 40yrs of practice in Texas Law, Constitutional Law, Municipal law, mediation, communications

**Support voucher program for educational funding?** Yes

**Do you support public school districts mandating vaccinations not required by the State of Texas?** Yes

**STAAR testing an appropriate prerequisite for promotion in San Antonio schools?** Yes

**Support Connected In the Classroom initiative?** Yes

**Public school's role is in teaching controversial topics?** I would apply 40yrs of practice in Texas Law, Constitutional Law, Municipal law, mediation, communications

## Those candidates who did not respond:

### Mayoral

Ray Adam Basaldua  
Diana Flores Uriegas  
Ron Nirenberg  
Michael Idrogo  
Armando Dominguez  
Gary Allen  
Michael Samaniego

### District 1

Sukh Kaur  
Mario Bravo  
Kaitlyn Fulk  
Roberto Rios Ortega  
James Matthew Duerr

### District 2

Carla Walker  
Jalen McKee-Rodriguez  
James M. Guild  
Rose Requenez Hill  
Michael John Good

### District 3

Larry La Rose  
Phyllis Viagran

### District 4

Adriana Rocha Garcia  
Gregorio De La Paz

### District 5

Teri Castillo  
Arturo Espinosa  
Rudy Lopez

### District 6

Irina Rudolph  
Melissa Cabello Havrda

### District 7

Dan Rossiter  
Marina Alderete Gavito  
Andrew "A.J." Luck

### District 8

Cesario Garcia  
Manny Pelaez

### District 9

John Courage  
David Allan Lara  
Dominique Liu

### District 10

Joel Solis  
Madison Gutierrez  
Marc Whyte  
Rick Otley  
Bryan R. Martin