



2018 Agenda of Issues

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND LIVING WAGES

- Ensure employees receive a **living wage** (or prevailing wage, if higher) for all work funded by our tax dollars.
- Secure funding for the successful long-term job training program **Capital IDEA** at the city, county, state (ACE Fund), and federal levels.
- Support policies which ensure **worker safety** in construction and building trades.
- **Freeze the homestead exemption** in order to assure city tax dollars are sufficient to provide for programs that benefit working class and middle-income families, including workforce development, living wage policies, Prime Time after school program, and parent support specialists.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- Include **affordable housing** as an integral part of Code Next (as well as part of housing policy in other Central Texas municipalities) including the preservation of affordable housing in older single-family neighborhoods, mobile home parks and low-income multi-bedroom apartment rentals.
- Develop an **Affordable Housing Bond Package** that includes meaningful investment in families below 50 percent of the Austin Median family income level.
- Develop a comprehensive strategy to **end homelessness** in Central Texas, including short-term and permanent housing options, and an end to policies that criminalize homelessness.
- Enact legislation at city, state and federal levels to regulate **Payday Lending** and provide for affordable alternatives for working class and poor families.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

- Implement effective **community policing strategies**, in which police officers engage with community members in meaningful conversation around safe neighborhoods. Training should specifically include cultural competency in working with communities of color and immigrant communities, and anti-racism training.
- Work for meaningful **criminal justice and court reform** policies, including policies which address unlawful detention, bail, and plea bargaining.

SUSTAINABILITY

- Implement policies which **promote sustainability** in Central Texas through meaningful investments in infrastructure, public transportation, parks, lighting, and renewable energy such as solar and wind power.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

- **Overturn SB4** in the next legislature.
- Pass legislation at the state level to allow unauthorized immigrants to **obtain a valid Texas driver's license** for the purpose of public safety
- Pass federal legislation that would **resolve the uncertain status of DACA participants**.
- Pass **comprehensive immigration reform** at the federal level to include a pathway to citizenship for the over 11 million unauthorized immigrants living in the US; a provision to protect workers' rights; and a provision to allow for family unification.

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

- Expand **Medicaid and CHIP** in Texas to cover the over 4 million uninsured Texans.
- Expand access to **Mental Health Services** in Central Texas.
- Expand access to **Medicare providers** in Central Texas, and access to **eldercare and disabled services and services for the disabled**.

QUALITY EDUCATION

- Increase **funding for Public Schools** at the state and federal levels.
- Ensure a **safe and supportive school environment** for all students.
- Support **neighborhood schools** by promoting enrollment and **parent and community engagement**.
- Promote **restorative discipline** and a relational approach to build school climate and address student behavior.