

CORE VALUES

Everyone who works in the office of Council Member Houston or is an appointee to a board or commission, is a surrogate and will engage people throughout the district and listen to their hopes, dreams and concerns for the city we all love. We will encourage and uplift people in the district to get involved and to participate in creative problem solving.

There is an issue that is usually avoided and/or not acknowledged. It is the issue that Austin continues to have striations and place markers based on income and ethnic background. For Austin to be worthy of the title 'prosperous', it is important that we acknowledge that there are systems, policies and procedures which create an unfair bias to the detriment of others. Austin is viewed as a progressive, weird, diverse and creative city, but rarely are the disparities relating to health, education, housing, incarceration data about ethnic groups, cultures, ages, LGBT communities, or socio-economic levels mentioned in public.

We are committed to the following core values.

We are passionate about District #1, the people who live in and the places that contribute to the district's uniqueness and diversity. We seek to participate in true dialogue through open, honest and civil conversations rather than debate. It is important to listen to others, respect all sides of an issue, and use civil tones in order to achieve positive outcomes for our city.

- We are committed to community participation in decisions which will impact the quality of their lives. We will invite, welcome and engage a wide variety of people who choose to call District #1 their home in conversations about the vision of the city. We promise to include all ages; all economic and education levels; families with children and singles; homeowners and renters; people from different cultures, languages, beliefs and backgrounds; recent Austin arrivals and people who have lived here for generations.
- We will be mindful and respectful of the viewpoints and truths of others as well as the experiences which formed them. It is important to be aware of the history of our city, discrete neighborhoods and the events which shaped communities of interest in order that the same mistakes are not repeated.
- We are excited that District #1 is the most diverse of the newly established ten districts and serves as an example of a very large blended family unit. We must listen to all voices to get different perspectives, new information, creative solutions and ways to enhance the conversations between the City of Austin, trade associations, special interest groups and the people who pay our salaries.
- We will acknowledge that each of us carries seeds of bias and prejudice in our DNA. We have preconceived ideas and perceptions about the "other" or members of cultural groups who are different from us. It is important that we all do our part to be aware of how ingrained our automatic responses can be so we avoid division and begin to heal as a community.

- We will focus on ensuring that people live, work and play in safe environments and neighborhoods where they are respected, heard, accepted and safe from harm or crime. It is important to show mutual respect between members of the community and the employees of the city.

- We must begin to have the difficult conversations in our city to dismantle silos and allow access to everyone. Create a safe environment where people have an opportunity to contribute to the solutions, including people with limited resources, education levels, cultures, ethnicities, religious beliefs or not, lifestyles, all age groups, technology or not, and differing abilities.

Our vision for District #1 and the city of Austin is one of civility, equity, unity, cooperation and inclusiveness.