

**Austin Neighborhoods Council**  
Minutes of the City Council Candidate Forum and Endorsement Meeting  
Austin Energy Building, 721 Barton Springs Rd.  
March 25, 2009  
6:00 PM to 10:55 PM

Minutes prepared by Lisa Harris ANC Co-Secretary

6:00pm City Council Candidate Forum, moderated by Marceline Alaster

6:00-6:15 Place 2, Mike Martinez

6:20-6:35 Place 5, Bill Spelman

6:40-7:10 Place 6, Sheryl Cole and Sam Osemene

7:20-8 Place 1, Perla Cavazos and Chris Riley

8:05-8:25 Mayor, Lee Leffingwell

8:30: The Forum was adjourned.

8:45: ANC president Danette Chimenti called the Endorsement Meeting to order in executive session and turned it over to moderator Mark Boyden. Mark explained the endorsement rules (attachment 1). The voting cards were distributed to designated representatives of eligible members. The meeting produced the attached statement and endorsements.

10:55 PM Adjourn

### **ANC 2009 Austin City Council Candidate Endorsements**

The Austin Neighborhoods Council (ANC) continues to set a high bar for its 2009 City Council endorsements, requiring that a candidate earn at least two-thirds of the membership's vote at the endorsement meeting. The endorsement meeting was held Wednesday night, March 25, following ANC's City Council Candidate Forum.

ANC is grateful to the seven candidates who completed our lengthy questionnaire and attended the forum: Lee Leffingwell in the mayoral race; Perla Cavazos and Chris Riley in Place 1; Mike Martinez in Place 2; Bill Spelman in Place 5; Sheryl Cole and Sam Osemene in Place 6. Josiah Ingalls also completed the questionnaire but decided to not attend the forum. Responses to the questionnaire are posted on ANC's Web site: [www.ancweb.org](http://www.ancweb.org).

We appreciate the opportunity to engage these thoughtful candidates in a discussion of the city's future, and we respect the dedication to public service represented by their participation in ANC's endorsement process. ANC would be pleased to work with any of them on the City Council.

ANC's endorsements in the five City Council races are as follows:

#### **MAYOR – LEE LEFFINGWELL**

ANC unanimously endorses Lee Leffingwell for Mayor of Austin. Of the 5 candidates, ANC believes that Councilmember Leffingwell is overwhelmingly the most qualified and has the best vision to lead Austin through these tough economic times. He is the mayoral candidate who cares most about issues critical to neighborhoods, as evidenced by his budget priorities and his commitment to planning and community participation. We call on Councilmember Leffingwell to step up his leadership on important community issues and look forward to working with him as Mayor of Austin.

**PLACE 1 – PERLA CAVAZOS**

Of the two former Planning Commissioners in this race, Perla Cavazos stated the strongest and most thoughtful commitment to both neighborhoods and comprehensive planning and to community participation, with a clear vision for moving forward. In addition, her experience as a policy analyst at the state legislature promises to bring a new level of sophistication to the City Council's deliberations on taxes, budgets, affordable housing and intergovernmental issues.

**PLACE 2 – MIKE MARTINEZ**

Besides the strong commitment to planning, community participation, and budget priorities demonstrated by the other endorsed candidates, Councilmember Martinez has shown a political maturity and problem-solving skills that will serve Austin well throughout the broad range of challenges that face the community. The incumbent has provided leadership on many important issues over the last three years, showing an ability to work with neighborhoods even though his position may differ from ANC's.

**PLACE 5 – BILL SPELMAN**

Former Councilmember Spelman garnered a unanimous endorsement from ANC. His familiarity with the principles of the Austin Tomorrow plan and the community's environmental priorities will serve Austin well as we begin a new comprehensive plan. His commitment to sound planning practices, including community participation, appears to align with ANC's growth management resolution of 2008.

**PLACE 6 – NO ENDORSEMENT**

Neither candidate earned the ANC endorsement. We hope that both candidates will increase their interaction with and understanding of neighborhoods and the related planning, budget and quality of life issues crucial to Austin neighborhoods.