



Neighborhood Election Forum


November 2 Propositions Election

Forum Date: October 13, 2021

**Recording will be on neighborhood group web
sites after the session**



Thank you to all the host
neighborhood groups!



Also, thanks to all who submitted
questions for the panelists

Important Election Information

- Ballot by mail
 - Friday, October 22 - last day to apply for a ballot by mail (*received, not postmarked*)
 - <https://countyclerk.traviscountytexas.gov/elections/ballot-by-mail.html>
- Early voting
 - Monday, October 18th – Friday, October 29th, 2021
- Election Day
 - Tuesday, November 2, 2021
- Polling locations, wait times, hours of operation, voter status lookup
 - <https://votetravis.com>
- Voter guide (published by the start of early voting)
 - <https://lwvaustin.org/voter-guide/> or vote411.org

Forum Protocol

- Waiting room is enabled
- Zoom chat has been disabled, to allow us all to focus
 - For technical issues only, send a chat message to the host
- Session is being recorded, available after this forum
- Timekeeper will show the speaker how much time is left
 - 30 seconds – sign is left up until 30 seconds have expired
 - STOP - Time to stop

Forum Agenda

- Background Information on Proposition A
 - Recent Data on Crime and Policing - APD Chief Joseph Chacon
 - Basis of City of Austin Cost Estimates – City of Austin CFO and Director of the Financial Services Department Ed Van Eenoo
- Proposition A Debate
 - Opening Statements
 - For – Cleo Petricek, co-founder of Save Austin Now
 - Against – Jesús Garza – former Austin City Manager, representing No Way on Prop A
 - Question/answer, using pre-submitted audience questions
 - Closing Statements
- Proposition B
 - Intention and rationale – Leslie Pool, Austin City Councilmember, District 7
 - Opposition – David King, citizen activist on many Austin initiatives
- State Constitutional Propositions for Amendments

Discussion of Proposition A

- 5 minutes - APD Chief Joseph Chacon
- 5 minutes - CFO Ed Van Eenoo

- 10 minutes - Opening statement - Speaker For
- 10 minutes - Opening statement - Speaker Against
- 30 minutes - Answers to Pre-submitted Questions
- 2 minutes - Closing statement – Speaker For
- 2 minutes - Closing statement – Speaker Against

Questions for APD Chief Joseph Chacon –p.1

1. Proposition A requires two officers per every 1,000 residents.
 - a. What is the current response time for crimes of Priority 1? (ex. Robbery crimes with imminent danger)
 - b. What is the current actual ratio of officers/1000 residents? How does that relate to our history? How is the ratio expected to increase if Prop A does not pass?
 - c. The 2021-22 budget allows for 1.88 officers per 1,000 residents, but current staffing is below that target, and attrition is high, requiring an estimated 400-800 additional officers to be hired over the next five years to comply with this target (including a buffer of over-hiring, to address attrition). Is this a realistic target, and how can it be achieved?

Questions for APD Chief Joseph Chacon –p.2

2. The Police Chief reported that crime overall has decreased since 2020, but there has been an increase in homicides over the past year. To what can this be attributed? Is this expected to continue longer term (e.g., beyond Covid)?
3. When should people call 911 as of October 1 vs 311?
4. What activities are included in community engagement under Prop A, for 35% of police officer time?

Questions for Mr. Van Eenoo

1. It has been estimated that Proposition A would cost approximately \$300-600m over the next five years. Please explain the basis of this estimate range.
2. If Prop A passes, how can this be funded? Some things people in the community have suggested are these – can you speak to them, please?
 - a. tax increase
 - b. funds in the current budget, other than AFD and EMS [Neighbors suggest the homeless budget, for example.]
 - c. money that was removed when Council defunded the police in 2019

Move to Mr. Van Eenoo's slides now

City of Austin Proposition A

- **Shall a petitioned ordinance be approved to enhance public safety and police oversight, transparency and accountability by adding new chapter 2-16 to establish minimum standards for the police department to ensure effective public safety and protect residents and visitors to Austin, and prescribing minimal requirements for achieving the same, at an estimated cost of \$271.5 million - \$598.8 million over five years?**

Move to slides from Cleo Petricek

Jesús Garza, former City Manager

Prop A Q/A

Prop A Closing Statements

City of Austin Proposition B

- **Shall the City Council be authorized to convey or lease approximately 9 acres of parkland currently used as the Central Maintenance Complex (CMC) located at 2525 S. Lakeshore Blvd. through a public bidding process, where the total value of the bid is equal to or greater than the appraised fair market value of CMC, in exchange for at a minimum: 1) at least 48 acres of waterfront land contiguous to an existing City park; and 2) the cost or construction of a new maintenance facility for the Parks and Recreation Department on other city-owned land; and 3) partial or full funding for the removal of Fiesta Gardens' existing maintenance facility and restoration of that land to parkland?**

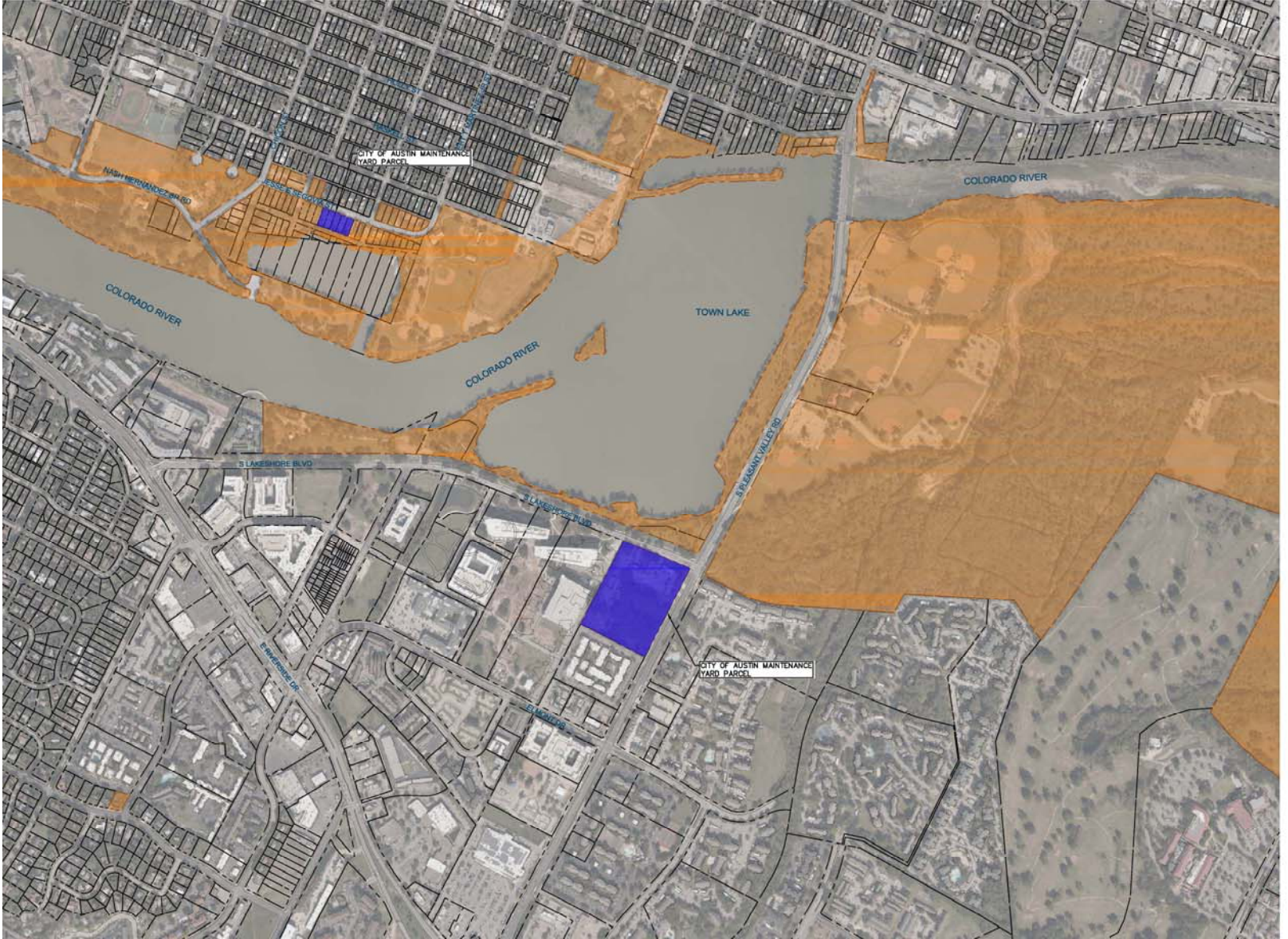
Discussion of Proposition B

- 5 minutes - Rationale for Proposition B – Leslie Pool
 - See maps in next slides
- 5 minutes - Opposition to Proposition B – David King
 - Speaking without slides

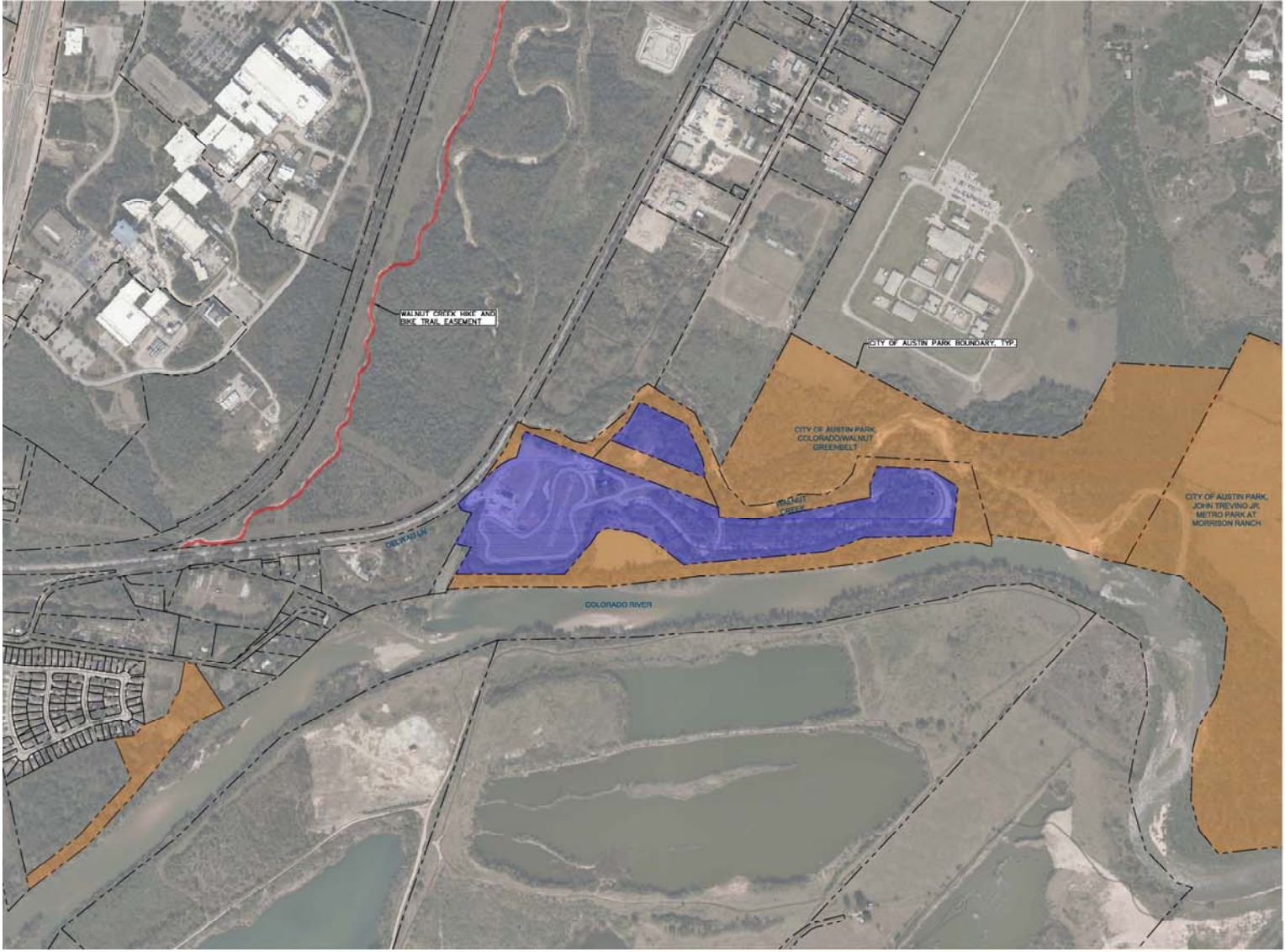
Questions provided to CM Pool

1. Please give us some background on this proposition:
where did the idea arise? What is Oracle's involvement?
2. Were PARD and the Parks Board involved in putting this together? If not, why not? Why no public input, prior to it going on the ballot? What support was there from Council?
3. What do we expect Oracle to do with the property?

Map of Maintenance Yards



Map of Racetrack Site



Comments from David King

- What issues to you see with this proposition?

Propositions for Constitutional Amendments

- Information here is from Texas Secretary of State's web site
 - <https://www.sos.state.tx.us/about/newsreleases/2021/072921.shtml>
- For more information
 - Coverage in local newspapers
 - Community Impact – September 2021
 - Austin American Statesman editorial comments – this week and next
 - Voter guide (published by the start of early voting)
 - <https://lwvaustin.org/voter-guide/> or vote411.org

State Constitution Proposition 1 (HJR 143)

- **The constitutional amendment authorizing the professional sports team charitable foundations of organizations sanctioned by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association or the Women's Professional Rodeo Association to conduct charitable raffles at rodeo venues.**
- **HJR 143** proposes a constitutional amendment expanding the circumstances in which a professional sports team charitable foundation may conduct raffles to raise money for the foundation's charitable purposes. The proposed amendment would allow professional sports team charitable foundations of organizations sanctioned by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association or the Women's Professional Rodeo Association to hold charitable raffles at rodeo events. [Texas gambling laws make it necessary to do this by constitutional amendment.]

State Constitution Proposition 2 (HJR 99)

- **The constitutional amendment authorizing a county to finance the development or redevelopment of transportation or infrastructure in unproductive, underdeveloped, or blighted areas in the county.**
- **HJR 99** proposes a constitutional amendment allowing the legislature to authorize a county to issue bonds or notes to finance the development or redevelopment of an unproductive, underdeveloped, or blighted area within the county and to pledge for repayment of those bonds or notes increases in property tax revenues imposed on property in the area by the county. The Texas Constitution gives the legislature the power to authorize an incorporated city or town to issue such bonds or notes but does not expressly give the legislature the power to grant that same authority to counties. The proposed amendment also provides that a county that issues bonds or notes for transportation improvements may not pledge for the repayment of those bonds or notes more than 65 percent of the increases in ad valorem tax revenues each year, and a county may not use proceeds from the bonds or notes to finance the construction, operation, maintenance, or acquisition of rights-of-way of a toll road.

State Constitution Proposition 3 (SJR 27)

- **The constitutional amendment to prohibit this state or a political subdivision of this state from prohibiting or limiting religious services of religious organizations.**
- **SJR 27** proposes a constitutional amendment barring the State of Texas or a political subdivision from enacting, adopting, or issuing a statute, order, proclamation, decision, or rule that prohibits or limits religious services. The proposed amendment would apply to religious services, including those conducted in churches, congregations, and places of worship, in the state by a religious organization established to support and serve the propagation of a sincerely held religious belief.

State Constitution Proposition 4 (SJR 47)

- **The constitutional amendment changing the eligibility requirements for a justice of the supreme court, a judge of the court of criminal appeals, a justice of a court of appeals, and a district judge.**
- **SJR 47** proposes a constitutional amendment changing certain eligibility requirements for a justice of the Supreme Court, a judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals, a justice of a court of appeals, and a district judge. The proposed amendment provides that a person is eligible to serve on the Supreme Court if the person, among other qualifications, is licensed to practice law in Texas; is a resident of Texas at the time of election; has been either a practicing lawyer licensed in Texas for at least ten years or a practicing lawyer licensed in Texas and a judge of a state court or county court established by the legislature for a combined total of at least ten years; and during that time has not had the person's license to practice law revoked, suspended, or subject to a probated suspension. The same eligibility requirements would apply to a judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals and to a justice of a court of appeals. The proposed amendment further provides that to be eligible for appointment or election as a district judge, a person must be a resident of Texas; be licensed to practice law in Texas; and have been a practicing lawyer or a judge of a court in Texas, or both combined, for eight years preceding the person's election, during which time the person's license to practice law has not been revoked, suspended, or subject to a probated suspension.

State Constitution Proposition 5 (HJR 165)

- **The constitutional amendment providing additional powers to the State Commission on Judicial Conduct with respect to candidates for judicial office.**
- **HJR 165** proposes a constitutional amendment allowing the State Commission on Judicial Conduct (SCJC) to accept complaints or reports, conduct investigations, and take any other authorized action with respect to a **candidate** for a state judicial office. Currently, the Texas Constitution only permits the SCJC to take such actions as to persons holding a judicial office.

State Constitution Proposition 6 (SJR 19)

- **The constitutional amendment establishing a right for residents of certain facilities to designate an essential caregiver for in-person visitation.**
- **SJR 19** proposes a constitutional amendment establishing that residents of certain facilities have the right to designate an essential caregiver with whom the facility may not prohibit in-person visitation. The proposed amendment would apply to a nursing facility, assisted living facility, intermediate care facility for individuals with an intellectual disability, residence providing home and community-based services, or state supported living center. The proposed amendment also would authorize the legislature to provide guidelines for these facilities to follow in establishing essential caregiver visitation policies and procedures.

State Constitution Proposition 7 (HJR 125)

- **The constitutional amendment to allow the surviving spouse of a person who is disabled to receive a limitation on the school district ad valorem taxes on the spouse's residence homestead if the spouse is 55 years of age or older at the time of the person's death.**
- **HJR 125** proposes a constitutional amendment permitting a person who is 55 years of age or older at the time of death of their spouse who is receiving a limitation on school district property taxes on their residence homestead on the basis of a disability to continue receiving the limitation while the property remains the surviving spouse's residence homestead.

State Constitution Proposition 8 (SJR 35)

- **The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a member of the armed services of the United States who is killed or fatally injured in the line of duty.**
- **SJR 35** proposes a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a member of the United States armed services who is killed or fatally injured in the line of duty. The Texas Constitution provides a property tax exemption to the surviving spouse of a member of the armed services who is killed in action, but the current exemption does not include members of the military who die during their service due to injuries sustained that are not combat-related.



Thank you for attending

- Recording available through your neighborhood group
- Make a plan to vote!
- Check out the voter guide for more information – [vote411.org](https://www.vote411.org)
- Tell your neighbors!

