

# 2017 Citizens Bond Advisory Committee

## Committee Members

### ***Leah M. Bojo***

Appointed by County Judge Sarah Eckhardt

I am currently a Senior Land Use and Policy Manager at Drenner Group, a boutique real estate law firm that specializes in land use and entitlement matters. I represent clients throughout the development process including the management of zoning, site development permit, subdivision, vested rights and variance request cases. I work with City Staff, Boards and Commissions, City Council, advocacy groups and neighborhood associations throughout the development process. Additionally, I monitor policy changes and planning at the City of Austin and surrounding municipalities.

I have experience working with and building consensus among stakeholders in connection with a broad array of land use decisions and have worked with city council members, county commissioners, city of Austin boards and commissions, governmental staff, advocacy groups, neighborhood associations, and other stakeholders throughout the land development entitlement process.

I see mobility and public spaces as two of the most important components of any great city. I would like to represent the interests of a growing number of people who are advocating for alternative modes of transportation and for quality public spaces over sheer quantity of parkland. Cities and counties across the country are realizing that parks and transportation are related, and are also related to public health, schools, affordability, the environment, and myriad other aspects of a citizen's quality of life. I am excited to discuss those intersections and how they can be leveraged in creating a bond package that best serves the residents of Travis County while balancing priorities and the impact on taxpayers.

As a long-time resident and a lover of Austin, I want to do my part to help with this decision-making process. My past work for the Austin City Council and now as a consultant with a real estate law firm has given me a wide variety of skills and perspectives that I would like to contribute. I want to be a part of the civic processes that shape our places and the ways we move around Austin and Travis County.

### ***John Langmore***

Appointed by County Judge Sarah Eckhardt

John Langmore has worked on transportation and land use issues in a number of capacities since returning to Austin in 2003.

In addition to his past work as a private consultant, John also worked for the Texas House Transportation Committee as its Policy Director and served on the State Legislature's "Rider 42" Committee charged with creating solutions for Austin's most congested roadways. He recently served on the Cap Metro Board, CAMPO's Transit Working Group, the Imagine Austin Citizens Advisory Task Force and the Mayor's Central Corridor Advisory Committee, all focused on improving transportation in Central Texas.

Before returning to Austin, John was a lawyer with Akin Gump in Washington DC and an executive with Caterpillar Inc. John has a BBA, MBA and JD all from the University of Texas at Austin.

## ***Vanessa Puig-Williams***

### **Appointed by County Judge Sarah Eckhardt**

Currently, I am the Executive Director and General Counsel for the Trinity Edwards Springs Protection Association (TESPA), a non profit that represents the collective voice of landowners in the Hill Country who want to protect their privately owned groundwater and who recognize the importance that groundwater plays in sustaining the ecology and the economy of the Hill Country.

In addition to my work for TESP, I am also an Affiliated Fellow with the Kay Bailey Hutchison Center for Energy Law and Business at UT Law, where I conduct research and write papers on water policy, energy and natural resource issues. I've recently published two papers, *Regulating unregulated groundwater in Texas: how the state could conquer this final frontier in the Texas Water Journal* and *Law 360 and Protecting Species or Hindering Energy Development? How the Endangered Species Act Impacts Energy Projects on Western Public Lands in the Environmental Law Reporter*.

Finally, I maintain my own private law practice where I primarily focus on conservation law, assisting land trusts and other attorneys who work in the conservation law field on specific projects related to conservation easement transactions, such as reviewing and drafting conservation easements and title review.

As a member of the Zilker Neighborhood Association Parks Committee, I initiated efforts to improve South Zilker Park along Robert E Lee. Our efforts have focused on improving a parking lot that drains into Barton Creek, working with COA Watershed Protection on a plan for drainage and rainwater beds, and working with the COA Parks department to protect trees in the area and to develop a long term plan for improving this section of the park.



As a member of the Zilker Elementary School's Facility and Building Master Plan Committee, I am assisting the school administrators and the PTA in communicating with AISD and the City of Austin to ensure that the school qualifies to receive funding through AISD's next bond election to expand its classroom space. The challenges for Zilker Elementary are unique as the school property is subject to the SOS Ordinance. I am helping the school navigate through these issues.

As an avid runner who spends hours each week on the Butler Hike and Bike trail around Lady Bird Lake, I offered my pro bono services to the Trail Foundation and drafted a Gift Acceptance Policy for the non profit several years ago.

Finally, as a board member of the Wimberley Valley Watershed Association, I have advocated for the protection of groundwater resources in the Hill Country, the adoption of the Cypress Creek Watershed Protection Plan, and protective permit limitations for the City of Wimberley's wastewater discharge permit at TCEQ.

As a resident of Travis County since 1998, I have witnessed the profound and rapid population growth that is affecting our region, and I understand how Travis County must adjust to and plan for this growth through the improvement and development of infrastructure, specifically, roads, transportation, parks and open space. I love living in Travis County, and I love to collaborate. Participation on the Citizen Bond Advisory Council will allow me to give back to my community and work with other residents and our elected officials and their staff to help the county respond to continued growth and prepare for the future.

*(My two boys at beautiful Pace Bend Park. I'm doing this for them too—so that they will enjoy living in Travis County as much as I do.)*



## ***N. Lillie Almanza***

Appointed by Commissioner Jeff Travillion

IT Business Office Web Administrator

Performs highly complex (senior-level) web design and development work. Work involves coordinating web environment design, deployment, and maintenance activities. Oversees and makes recommendations to the various HHSC IT site administrators to ensure the information contained in HHSC IT intranet sites is current, logically organized, and easy to navigate including how to improve the usefulness of their site (i.e. esthetics, graphics, site organization, and wording) to potentially increase the use of an organization's site. Functions as the primary coordinator between the 8 HHSC IT division intranet site leads and external communications to create new content/pages or redesign existing pages in an organization's intranet site. Prepares working drafts that can be reviewed by management before implementation. Communicates with HHSC IT division intranet leads and/or division directors and provides status of revisions to an existing site or development and/or deployment of a new site. Insures changes or new sites meet initial expectations, while creating website metrics. Reviews and analyzes web content for information currency, relevance, and adherence to state law accessibility, security and privacy requirements. Tracks usage of a system, confers with management and advises on the status of projects, processes, relative to new site development/deployment. Assists in the application and implementation of information security policies as they relate to Internet and intranet security by ensuring websites are thoroughly tested prior to deployment. Designs and implements new or revised websites in coordination with the IT Business Office areas, HHS IT Operations and HHS IT Security that effectively meet the needs of the agency. Manages all website pages for the Health and Human Service Commission's 7 divisions.

I would like to be involved in the decisions that will shape the future of Travis County. As an Austin Knight with a history of community advocacy in several areas, I can bring a cultured voice to the table. My education and work experience has prepared me in the areas of marketing, financial management and communications. I would like to use my qualifications to serve my county and my community. I want to help identify the needs of our community and find solutions to some of our problems with transportation, recreation, conservation, planning and development, housing and historic preservation while encouraging conscious progress.

## ***Andrew Clements***

Appointed by Commissioner Jeff Travillion

I am a creative and solutions-driven architect and planner with over thirty years of experience planning, designing, documenting, inspecting and managing complex, multi-million-dollar projects and programs, ranging from educational and commercial to institutional, governmental, religious, and residential. I employ excellent design, analytical, organizational, interpersonal, communication (written & verbal) and leadership skills. I have lifelong involvement in numerous civic, non-profit, and professional activities, with an emphasis on regional growth, land use, urban design, sustainability and transportation issues. I have worked primarily as an architect, but also as an urban planner, for a variety of private design firms in College Station, San Antonio, and Austin, Texas; and for public and governmental agencies in Austin, including the City of Austin Long Range Planning Department (as a graduate planning intern, conducting the Existing Land-Use Inventory of Austin and its ETJ in preparation of the update of the Austin Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan, summer 1985), Austin Independent School District (part of a team of Project Managers managing, in-house, the 2004 & 2008 publicly-passed Bond Issues for new and renovated school facilities), and for the Texas Department of State Health Services (inspecting and licensing health facilities state-wide). In addition, my regional and urban planning graduate education, and 25+ years involvement in and advocacy of good regional and urban planning, growth issues, and transportation/mobility solutions (especially mass/public transit, and particular-

ly rail transit), including 8 years in San Antonio/Bexar County and 17 years in Austin/Travis County, have given me a strong background and working knowledge in those areas.

My involvement in the community includes serving on the Boards of Foundation Communities, the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) Central Texas Regional Council, the Central Austin Community Development Corporation, and the Mueller Neighborhood Association; and I am Treasurer of Our Rail PAC (registered with the State of Texas, and City of Austin). I previously served on the City of Austin Downtown Commission (2004-2007) and Urban Transportation Commission (2003-2007), Chairing it 2006-2007. I was President and Vice-President of the Downtown Austin Neighborhood Association (2002-2006), and an active volunteer and facilitator for Envision Central Texas (2006-2012). Other civic participation and leadership roles include: Election Judge (Travis County); City of Austin CityWorks Academy (2012 Graduate); Yellow Bike Project, Austin (New Headquarters, Pro Bono Architect, 2010); Leadership Austin (Essentials Class, 2008; and Co-Chair 2010 Issues Forum, with Richard Florida, LBJ Library); member of the Downtown Austin Alliance Streetscapes & Mobility Committee (2005-2014); Board Member & Secretary, The Alliance for Public Transportation (2006-2010); CapMetro Service Plan Advisory Committee (2008-2010); San Antonio Conservation Society, Member (1999-2000); City of San Antonio - Land Development Code Revision Oversight Committee, 1999; Zoning Board of Adjustment (1996-1999), and City of College Station Capital Improvements Citizens Advisory Committee, 1990.

I applied to be a member of the CBAC because of my interest of being of service to my community, bringing my skills, education, experiences, and knowledge to bear on improving the quality of life, in whatever ways I can contribute, for the citizens of Austin, Travis County, and Central Texas. Due to my natural inclinations, and professional education, I most often seek to volunteer and contribute in the areas of the built environment, in urban and regional planning, urban/suburban growth issues, and mobility (and particularly transit as a subset of mobility). But I also think my interest and "knowledge base" is expanding the longer I live in Travis County - past the "downtown" and urban focus I had the first decade I lived here, growing to include East Austin and Travis County and the history, needs, and planning for this geographical area; and to "softer" issues of social services, parks and open space. I live in East Austin/Northeast Travis County now (and have for 3 years), after years of living in downtown Austin; and I serve on the Steering Committee of the Mueller Neighborhood Association - and I have been active in the Spirit of East Austin Initiative, learning much about the history and needs of this area. I seek to learn more, and contribute what I can to "establish(ing) a democratic, inclusive process to study a bond program that ensures the confidence and trust of the Travis County voters" (and all points of the Charter of the 2017 Travis County Citizen's Bond Advisory Committee).



### ***Larry A. Douglas, CISA, CGAP***

Appointed by Commissioner Jeff Travillion

Mr. Larry A. Douglas was selected by Commissioner Jeff Travillion to represent Precinct 1, He currently serves as the Deputy Director for the Internal Audit Division with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, and brings an extensive background in public sector governance, performance management, and community service. He is most proud to be the father of two sons: a college senior, and a high school junior.

Mr. Douglas possesses a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Texas State University and an undergraduate degree in Business Administration/Accounting from California State University-Dominguez Hills. Additionally, he is a Certified Information Systems Auditor and a Certified Government Auditing

Professional.

Mr. Douglas' professional, educational, and community services include: Vice Chair of the Texas State MPA Advisory Council, Past-President of the Austin Chapter of the Institute of Internal Auditors, former Vice-President of Finance for the Pflugerville Education Foundation, and former Treasurer for the Texas Association for Partners in Education.

### ***Lauren Cresswell***

Appointed by Commissioner Brigid Shea

Lauren works as an advocate and planner with Black + Vernooy Architecture and Urban Design, focusing on various transportation-related policies and infrastructure projects that prioritize the development of more sustainable networks and land uses. A graduate of the LBJ School of Public Affairs, she currently serves on the boards of Reconnect Austin and Vision Zero ATX, and is a member of several local and national organizations focused on urban issues.

#### **WHY I APPLIED:**

While I am passionate about transportation-related issues, I am keenly aware of the close ties transportation planning and infrastructure have to our public health, environmental quality, affordability, and overall fiscal resiliency. I would like to be a part of this bond effort to help ensure that our limited public resources are spent on projects that will result in productive assets for the community by addressing our immediate needs as a county and setting the right precedents for future investment.

### ***Katherine Romans***

Appointed by Commissioner Brigid Shea

Katherine Romans is the executive director of the Hill Country Alliance, a regional nonprofit with a mission to build an ever-expanding alliance of groups interested in protecting the long-term character of the Texas Hill Country. The organization operates across 17 counties and 11 million acres, from the fast-growing communities of Austin, San Antonio and the I-35 corridor to the quiet backroads of the heart of Texas.

Katherine brings a decade of nonprofit and legislative experience to the Citizen's Bond Advisory Committee. She worked on national and international natural resource issues for several years as a legislative aide within the U.S. House of Representatives and has experience with both local and national nonprofit organizations. She was recruited to the HCA in 2013 as the Director for Landowner Outreach. Katherine holds a Master of Environmental Management (M.E.M) from the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies. She completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. She is excited to join the Citizen's Bond Advisory Committee to address the opportunities and challenges Travis County faces as it looks to accommodate incredible population growth while balancing the long-term protection of its natural resources, open spaces, water resources and quality of life.



## **Brian Thompto**

Appointed by Commissioner Brigid Shea

Senior Technical Staff Member, POWER Systems Microprocessor Development

I develop the microprocessor technology at the heart of world-class computer systems for IBM POWER. I serve as a senior technical leader responsible for performance and microarchitecture of the next generations of POWER systems. I work with a world-wide team developing the computer processor micro-architecture and implementation. This includes working with external customers, software development and performance teams to collaborate on requirements and opportunities and feed those back into our product. I work with dozens of engineers to specify, develop, and validate the implementation of a highly customized processor design targeting a broad range of server applications. I specialize in identifying best-fit designs including a great deal of innovation to achieve objectives and also focus on the processes and people development needed to develop our products.

I have a keen interest in seeing both the immediate needs and strategic goals of the county be met through proactive, careful planning and prioritization. I take the use of our County's funds very seriously and would like the opportunity to help identify the highest impact investments for transportation, parks and other key services provided by the county.

I look forward to collaborating with other areas of the county and getting to understand their immediate needs. I also look forward to helping engage with the broader community to obtain input.

## **Scott Chapman**

Appointed by Commissioner Gerald Daugherty

In my over 40 years of employment in the banking and financial services industries, I have experience in being both an institutional investor at Austin National Bank and subsequently as a financial advisor to banks, individuals, families, foundations and trusts.

In my position at Austin National Bank, I helped manage a taxable and tax-exempt bond portfolio of between \$35,000,000 and \$50,000,000. As such, I learned much about credit analysis of municipalities in which we invested. We were always focused on the debt burden and the ability and willingness of citizens to incur and fund bonded debt.

When I retired as a financial advisor, I, along with my son and partner, managed assets in excess of \$150,000,000. The great majority of those assets were in fixed income investments, and the bulk of those assets were in municipal bonds. Again, creditworthiness was always the foremost consideration in municipal bond selection.

Finally, as a leader of the 100 member Diaconate at First Baptist, I have experience in communicating with people of differing goals and opinions and I would be able to be a contributing member of the CABC.

As a taxpayer in Travis County, I am concerned, and also interested in investigating the debt burden borne by Travis County property owners. I have personally seen the growth of my ad valorem taxes on my residence over the last several years and heard complaints from friends and associates as well. I realize that the rapid growth of Travis County has increased the pressure on all municipalities in the County to provide adequate facilities and services to the people they serve. However, my main concern is that the cost of government is becoming a hindrance to the quality of life in our community. One of the most troublesome issues to me is the overlapping debt being created by all of the cities, school districts, hospital districts etc. I believe it is incumbent on elected officials of Travis County, all municipalities and taxing districts to take the overall tax burden into account when making decisions regarding bonded debt. I would like a voice at the table in an effort to see that EVERY single dollar spent for whatever purpose is spent efficiently for what is desired and NEEDED, not necessarily for what is desired and wanted. I think that all projects and expenditures need to be judiciously prioritized before decisions are made for funding. I believe that my professional experience will aid me in that quest.

**Brian K. Reis**

Appointed by Commissioner Gerald Daugherty

I have over 27 years of experience in civil engineering design and water resources planning throughout the state of Texas and currently work as an engineering consultant at Lockwood Andrews & Newnam (LAN). I have lived in Austin since 1995. I recently served on the City of Austin's Code Advisory Group (CAG) and I am the current chair of the Oakhill Neighborhood Planning Contact Team. I have studied the community's perspective on land use since serving on those committees and, as an Oak Hill resident and with my engineering background, believe that we can find a balance between our growth needs and preservation. I have a keen awareness of the need for new infrastructure as well as a clear understanding of the cost in maintaining our existing aging infrastructure. I am pleased to receive the opportunity to serve our community in this capacity.

**Jim Susman**

Appointed by Commissioner Gerald Daugherty

A Principal and President at STG Design, Jim Susman, AIA has been practicing architecture for over 35 years. Jim supervises firm design, operations and project delivery to ensure design innovation and quality. Most recently, Jim oversaw completion of the Seaholm Power Plant Re-Development with STG Design as architect and interior designer. Projects under Jim's direction have earned over 70 awards including the City of Austin Design Excellence Award, Design Impact Award, AIA Honor Award, and Heritage Society Preservation Award. Jim is involved with numerous professional organizations and is extensively involved in the community, having served various roles for American Institute of Architects, Texas Society of Architects, Helping Hand Home for Children, Mobile Loaves & Fishes, The Thinkery, and the University of Texas School of Architecture.

**Amanda Brown**

Appointed by Commissioner Margaret Gómez

Senior Development Planner with Metcalfe Wolff Stuart Williams, LLP

Based on my professional experience, I have extensive knowledge of how public processes work and transportation regulations. I hope to use my skills and experience to be of service to the public.

**Lonnie Limon**

Appointed by Commissioner Margaret Gómez

Managing Director- Dieste Inc.

Oversee the advertising for AT&T in the U.S. Hispanic market inclusive of all national brand initiatives. Responsibility includes development of brand strategy and implementation of creative strategy across the following business units: AT&T Wireless, AT&T Internet, DirecTV Premium, and DirecTV Now.

As a contributing member of this board, my desire is to serve as a voice and sounding board for the people of East and Southeast Austin while remaining in tune with the collective goals for Travis County as a community. Having left Austin/Travis County for many of my formative years to pursue a career in advertising, it is now my desire to utilize my leadership skills, community relationships, business acumen and historical understanding of Travis County to further help our community address the needs of its citizens.

***Ron Wattinger***

Appointed by Commissioner Margaret Gómez

Sales Manager for Industrial Wipers and FRP | Director of IT @ JOSCO Products

I over see the IT at JOSCO Products. I also work in sales for the company and I am responsible for all purchasing and marketing for our Industrial Wipers and FRP items. I help the ware house manager plan and route our company's delivery's to ensure that we are meeting our customer 's needs in an efficient manner as possible. I also work with our new comptroller on all accounting issues that up until November I handle as well.

I have a strong background in contracts and customer service. I pride myself at being able to look, listen and develop strong plans of actions to accomplish the set goals and needs of my customers.

As a longtime resident of Travis County and as an active leader with in my community I feel that it is important to have a strong leader on this bond committee. Travis County and more over South East Travis County is going to see massive growth over the next 10 -15 years . As David Mellenbruch and I have stated for years, we have to get a strong Infrastructure in order to get the growth that we need in this area. HEB has bought land but it is still 2 years away in part due to the infrastructure. It is important for us to look at infrastructure in this area to ensure that we grow in a responsible way for the benefit of the community and Travis County. This is even more so for the safety of our students to get to and from school in growth. DVISD encompasses 174 Square miles in the southeast part of the county. We include the communities of Montoplis, Garfield, Creedmoor, Mustang Ridge, Webberville, Elroy, Pilot Knob and Austin Colony. Most of these areas do not have city governments to look after their best interest and they rely on the county to do so. I want to help be a part of the process to make sure everyone is heard and feels good so that the area can grow and we can bring more businesses and jobs to the area.