WELCOME

Austin City Council
District 5 Candidate Forum

Thursday, October 1, 2026 | 6:30–8:30 PM

Woodlawn Baptist Church

Hosted by Western Trails Neighborhood Association
with neighbors from Western Trails, Southwood, Southern Oaks, and District 5 communities

Quick Announcements

Voter registration is available tonight

Stop by the registration table if you need to register, update your address, or check your information.

Woodlawn Baptist Church event

Woodlawn's 75th Anniversary Block Party
Sunday, October 11 | 4–7 PM

Joslin Elementary fundraiser

It is not too late to donate and support Joslin Elementary. Thank you to everyone who has already contributed.

Audience questions

Please use the index cards and pens provided. We will collect cards during the forum and combine similar questions.

6:30–8:30 PM

Tonight’s Agenda

6:30–6:36	**Welcome & ground rules**	Purpose of tonight’s forum and participation guidelines
6:36–6:43	**Candidate openings**	2 minutes per candidate
6:43–7:33	**Moderated questions**	Three core issue areas; equal time for each candidate
7:33–8:07	**Audience questions**	Index-card questions grouped by topic
8:07–8:17	**Candidate closings**	2 minutes per candidate
8:17–8:25	**Closing remarks**	Voting reminder, thanks, and next steps
8:25–8:30	**Buffer / informal conversation**	A few minutes of flexibility if portions run long

Timing may flex slightly so we can keep the overall program on track.

Welcome & Purpose

Tonight is about helping District 5 residents hear directly from the candidates and leave better informed as they prepare to vote.

- Thank you to Woodlawn Baptist Church for hosting tonight’s forum.
- Thank you to the candidates for their time, energy, and willingness to serve.
- Welcome to neighbors from Western Trails, Southwood, Southern Oaks, and communities across District 5.
- Our goal is a respectful, issue-focused conversation about District 5 and the City of Austin.

EQUAL TIME AND RESPECTFUL DISCUSSION

Ground Rules

- Candidates will receive equal time to answer each question.
- Please respect the timer and the signal that time has ended.
- No interruptions or rebuttals while another candidate is speaking.
- Keep the discussion respectful, concise, and focused on District 5 issues.
- Audience questions should generally be applicable to all candidates.
- Similar audience questions may be combined so we can cover more topics.

INDEX CARDS AND PENS

Audience Questions

As you listen tonight, jot down questions you would like us to consider.

- We will collect the cards during the forum.
- Questions may be grouped with similar questions.
- We will ask as many as time allows during the audience-question portion.
- Please keep questions concise and focused on City Council responsibilities.

Audience Q&A begins at approximately 7:33 PM.

6:36–6:43 PM

Candidate Opening Statements

Each candidate will have 2 minutes.

- Why are you running for District 5?
- What experience would you bring to City Council?
- What is your connection to District 5 and South Austin?
- What do you believe are the top issues facing South Austin today?

Moderated Question 1

1

Homelessness & Neighborhood Protections

Each candidate has approximately 3 minutes to respond.

- What specific actions would you take now to address current neighborhood concerns and impacts?
- What would provide residents certainty about the future of the Menchaca location after the new facility opens?
- Would you support minimum-distance requirements between navigation centers and schools, parks, and residential neighborhoods?
- What safeguards, operating standards, or accountability measures would you support?

Moderated Question 2

2

Development, Density & Established Neighborhoods

Each candidate has approximately 3 minutes to respond.

- What safeguards would you support to address impacts of HOME on established neighborhoods?
- How would you reduce the burden on residents who may otherwise need costly legal action to enforce deed restrictions?
- Would you support early City notification for permits, subdivisions, and development applications?
- How would you balance more housing with legally recorded deed restrictions and meaningful notice?

Moderated Question 3

3

City Services, Spending & Affordability

Each candidate has approximately 3 minutes to respond.

- What are your top priorities for core services in District 5, including public safety, traffic, drainage, parks, streets, water, and wastewater?
- How would you decide priorities when demands compete for limited resources?
- How would you make sure taxpayers get measurable results from City spending and contracts?
- Within City Council’s influence, what specific actions would you take to keep Austin’s cost of living manageable?

7:33–8:07 PM

Audience Questions

We will now move to questions submitted by the audience.

- Thank you to everyone who submitted questions on index cards.
- Similar questions have been grouped where possible.
- Questions will generally be directed to all candidates.
- Each candidate will receive equal response time.

8:07–8:17 PM

Candidate Closing Statements

Each candidate will have 2 minutes.

Closing question

If elected, what are the three things you most want to accomplish during your first term, and how should District 5 residents measure whether you have been successful?

8:17–8:25 PM

Closing Remarks

- Thank you to each candidate for being here and answering questions.
- Thank you to everyone who joined us from District 5 neighborhoods.
- Thank you again to Woodlawn Baptist Church for hosting us.
- Please remember voter registration is available here tonight.
- Most importantly: please make a plan to vote in the upcoming election.

Reminder: Voter Registration Tonight

Stop by the voter registration table before you head home.

- Register if you are not currently registered.
- Update your information if you have recently moved.
- Check your registration status if you are unsure.
- Make a plan to vote and help your neighbors do the same.

Community Announcements

Woodlawn Baptist Church

75th Anniversary Block Party
Sunday, October 11 | 4–7 PM

Please join us in thanking Woodlawn for opening their doors to the community tonight.

Joslin Elementary School Fundraiser

It’s not too late to donate.

Your support helps Joslin Elementary and strengthens the partnership between the school and our neighborhood.

Thank you to everyone who has donated, volunteered, or helped spread the word.

Thank You

Have a safe trip home — and please make a plan to vote.

8:25–8:30 PM | Buffer / informal conversation with candidates and neighbors

Western Trails Neighborhood Association