

Bill Welch for City Council

(March 1, 2022)

General Welch Shares His City Priorities.

Public Safety

Police:

Prioritize (and increase as necessary) Police funding to provide training to improve areas of perceived or real deficiency.

Hire more police. Pay the best wages in the State to and recruit and retain the best candidates

Obtain and maintain the best technology and equipment.

Stand by our Police! Mistakes can be made when dealing with tense situations. Indicting and jailing our police does not serve our community. I agree with strict accountability for chronic misbehavior, but I believe we should focus more on recurring and remedial training for our good officers.

Fire and EMS:

Assure competitive pay and benefits to help recruit and retain the very best candidates.

Obtain and maintain the best technology and equipment.

Assure sufficient coverage for our rapidly expanding population. Make sure we have the right number and quality of personnel, stations, and equipment.

Transportation

Roads

Build more roads. Finish loop roads.

Complete the Southern portion of SH45

Work with State and Federal government to speed reconstruction of IH35 through the city's center.

Light Rail

Move the existing central Missouri Pacific rail operation to an area East of the Airport

Create a substantial rail depot there for large scale logistical support of new area industries.

Use the existing central rail line to provide commuter rail transportation to areas South of town to include San Marcos, Kyle, and Buda as well as serving key areas North, including downtown Austin, the Domain, Round Rock and Georgetown.

Establish rail connectivity to rail lines serving the airport, and areas Northwest of town Cedar Park and Leander.

Traffic Management

Central control facility, with live monitoring and capability to make real time adjustments necessary to alleviate traffic congestion.

Improve bike and bus lanes to minimize conflict with other privately owned vehicle traffic

Innovation

Lead the nation by enacting policies supporting the adaptation of key city centers to shared autonomous electric vehicle modes of transportation.

Homelessness

Enforce the camping ban.

Enforce trespassing laws for uninvited use of private property.

Remove encampments and clean up our city parks, streets, roadways, and underpasses.

Establish homeless engagement teams made up of social workers, police officers, sanitation personnel, and private sector faith-based persons partnering to provide the most appropriate humane solution to individual cases.

Incarcerate the criminals.

For the drug addicted, offer drug abuse treatment, counseling, job training and job placement.

For the mentally ill, offer treatment and housing in special care facilities.

For those who choose the lifestyle, establish approved campgrounds in outlying city properties with requirements to maintain good order and cleanliness. Provide toilet, and laundry facilities.

Stop comingling families and individuals in transitional residences together with drug addicts, criminals, and mentally ill persons. Establish "helping hand safe residences" for transitional cases.

Affordability

Residential

Enact policies to support residential needs

Review city development code and eliminate costly and time-wasting rules and regulations

Ease development restrictions allowing more density and multi-tenant occupancies.

Offer builder incentives to create more affordable alternatives.

Enact policies to ease the conversion of commercial properties to residential use.

Review the Property Tax code. Enact policies to ease the burden on property owners affected by rapidly increasing comparative valuations. Freeze taxes for fixed income and low-income residents.

Commercial

Enact policies to support commercial business startup innovation and incubation.

Provide financial incentives to commercial projects that house young startup enterprises

Livability and Quality of Life Issues

Water

More water is better!

Establish incentive policies that enhance and protect water resources.

Improve rainwater retention for consumption and irrigation.

Employ innovative techniques to store and distribute water with minimal loss to leakage and evaporation.

Secure long term water rights with outlying resources (pipelines & reservoirs).

Electricity

Green is Good. But reliance on ONLY green is risky.

Establish and prioritize multiple sources of energy to assure a consistent supply to meet the needs of our community.

Consider all sources Wind, Thermal, Hydro, Solar, Natural Gas, Nuclear, Fossil

Waste Management

Establish policies that encourage innovation and private sector involvement in waste reduction, removal, and elimination.

Entertainment

Live music Capital of the world... No longer true.

Establish dollar-for-dollar sales tax credits to businesses for amounts paid to live music performers

City sponsored support network for writers and performers. Housing, food, healthcare availability.