



FixAustin.org

## Animal Welfare Voter Information Guide

### Laura Morrison:

All of the candidates who participated in the Austin No Kill Coalition's first-annual City Council candidate forum committed to maintaining Austin's status as a No Kill community, but Council Member **Laura Morrison** stood out among the field of animal-welfare supporters. Morrison is not just a supporter of—but a proven champion for—lifesaving shelter reforms, expending political capital to enact No Kill reforms when others wouldn't, and serving as a leader on the Council's Public Health and Human Services Subcommittee that drafted the City's successful No Kill plan. Morrison is the perfect combination of compassion and smarts, and Austin's homeless pets are very lucky to have her on their side.

### Max Nofziger, Chris Riley, Randi Shade, & Kathie Tovo:

Current Council Members **Randi Shade** and **Chris Riley** have also been there for Austin's lost and homeless pets when it counted—both in their votes on Council and in their appointments to the Austin Animal Advisory Commission. Shade, like Morrison, served on the critically important Public Health and Human Services Subcommittee, and has demonstrated a solid understanding of animal-welfare issues. Riley was a long-time supporter of Austin's animal-welfare community even before joining the Council, and has maintained his commitment to improving the lives of Austin's animals after being elected. Still, both Shade and Riley's potential support of non-No-Kill, punitive animal-policy measures kept them from earning our top rating.

Animal-welfare advocates should also feel good about supporting former Council Member **Max Nofziger** and newcomer **Kathie Tovo**. Nofziger says animals have a special place in his heart, and wants Austin to work on saving even more than the current 90% goal. He also wants the City to define itself by how it treats animals. Tovo looks to be an excellent choice for No Kill advocates. Her inquisitive personality and professorial background showed on her excellent answers to our animal-welfare questionnaire, and she gave an unwavering commitment to maintaining Austin's status as a national No Kill leader. If Tovo is elected, we think she'll rise to the challenge.



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*In March 2010, the Austin City Council resolved to make Austin a "No Kill" City, meaning that the shelter would save 90% or more of the animals impounded at Town Lake Animal Center. Just eleven months later, the shelter celebrated its first 90% save-rate month—the best month ever for Austin's lost and homeless pets. FixAustin.org, a non-profit at the forefront of Austin's No Kill movement, asked the current City Council candidates tough questions on animal-welfare issues and evaluated their track record and answers.*