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Criminal Justice Candidate Forum for Travis County Commissioners Court
*Austin-Area Justice Advocacy Organizations to Host Candidates for Precincts 2 and 4 in
 Non-Partisan, Virtual Forum*

AUSTIN, TX — This week, local justice advocacy groups will host a virtual candidate forum for the Travis County Commissioners Court election. Participating will be candidates for Precinct 2 Commissioner Bob Libal and Brigid Shea (incumbent), and candidates for Precinct 4 Commissioner Margaret Gómez (incumbent) and Susanna Ledesma-Woody.

The forum will be hosted virtually at 6:00 pm CT on Thursday, February 24, 2022. Host organizations include Austin Justice Coalition (AJC), Clean Slate Texas, Just Liberty, MELJ Center, Statewide Leadership Council, Student Collective for Abolitionist Learning, Texas Appleseed, Texas Center for Justice and Equity (TCJE), Texas Fair Defense Project (TFDP), and Texas Harm Reduction Alliance (THRA). Cynthia Simons, Grant Me The Wisdom Foundation Women’s Fellow with TCJE, will moderate. [Press and community members can register here.](#)

The forum is intended to highlight the role that County Commissioners play in local criminal justice issues, to provide a community education space for candidates to share their views and positions on criminal justice, and to promote transparency for Travis County voters ahead of Election Day.

“County commissioners play a vital role in deciding how the Travis County budget is spent,” said Alycia Castillo, Director of Policy and Advocacy with TCJE. “I’m excited to get the chance to hear from the candidates themselves about what’s important to them regarding justice issues, and to learn more about their plans for funding a safe and just place for all Travis County residents.”

“Amidst the current overdose epidemic, we’re eager to hear what immediate steps candidates will take to curb the number of lives lost to overdose and repair the harm caused by the Travis County drug war.” said Cate Graziani, Executive Director of THRA.

“Following the uprisings of 2020, and Austin’s collective reckoning with the question, ‘what is true justice?’ Austinites know how important it is to get out and vote in local elections,” said Sarah Campbell with Student Collective for Abolitionist Learning. “A candidate forum makes it possible for voters to hear about the issues straight from the source, and it gives us the confidence that we’re casting a vote we feel good about.”

Registration is available for this free event [here](#). For press inquiries, please contact mkaigh@TexasCJE.org.

Note: This is a non-partisan, community education forum with invitations extended to all candidates running in each race. Host organizations have not endorsed specific candidates.

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The Texas Center for Justice and Equity (formerly the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition) advances solutions and builds coalitions to end mass incarceration and foster safer Texas communities.