

Reedy Spigner III Declares Candidacy for COA District 1 Seat.

Reedy M. Spigner III Officially Declares Candidacy for Austin City Council District 1 Seat Austin - July 25, 2018 — REEDY M. Spigner, III, will officially declare his candidacy for the Austin City Council District 1 seat on Thursday July 26, 2018, at School House Pub in East Austin with a gathering of supporters from 6pm-8pm. The seat was vacated by Ora Houston earlier this year.

REEDY is a single, father of two and third-generation Austinite. His roots run deep throughout his community. His grandparents, Dr. James Murphy Holloway and Mrs. Mildred Coleman Holloway were prominent Austinites, after moving their one-story bungalow to East Austin from Waco in 1946.

His grandfather, Dr. James Murphy Holloway, became one of Austin's



(2nd from left) Spigner surrounded by family and friend

first African-American physicians. He practiced at Holy Cross Hospital, the only integrated hospital in Austin during that time. His grandmother, Mrs. Mildred Coleman Holloway became a prominent figure in Texas

Democratic politics helping to launch the Texas Coalition of Black Democrats, the Black

Austin Democrats, the United Political Organization and served as an election judge for many years at her polling place at David Chapel Church and Martin Luther King and Chestnut in East Austin.

"With the support of more than 200 petitioner signatures, I am proud and honored to announce my candidacy

for Austin City Council District 1," said REEDY. "As a third-generation Austinite and active member of the community, I have experienced the frustrations of the people of east Austin. I understand the needs and desires of District 1 and seek to maintain and promote the history, vibrancy and diversity of East Austin."

Austin Interfaith Statement on Proposed Elimination of Living Wage Requirements for Private Corporations Receiving Taxpayer Subsidies

The newly proposed scale-up of the City of Austin's incentive programs giving tax subsidies for large corporations guts living wage protections for workers at those firms. Major planks of the newly released Economic Development Department tax-abatement proposal vastly expand tax giveaways to private corporations both relocating to and expanding within Austin while eliminating hard fought living-wage protections for workers of the companies receiving the benefits. These benefits have been agreed to by community, city, and business leaders repeatedly over the past decade and set Austin apart as a city that does all it can to protect workers.

Additionally, newly proposed programs to supposedly help underserved communities through tax subsidies to private firms would contain no Living Wage protections for those employees, potentially setting up taxpayer funding of poverty-level jobs.

Currently, private companies receiving taxpayer subsidies must pay their workers at least the City's current "Living Wage" of \$14/hr. Even at \$14/hour, the city's tax dollars are currently supporting jobs that don't pay enough for families to live in Austin.

Unveiled less than two weeks before a pivotal vote at City Council on August 9th, the Economic Development Department's proposal would turn Austin from a recognized leader in its commitment to Living Wages into "ground zero" for taxpayer subsidies to private corporations, and potentially drain the City Budget of already scarce revenue for basic services, parks, libraries, workforce development and education programs, leaving families at risk.

Austin Interfaith calls on the Mayor and City Council to protect current Living Wage provisions on any new tax subsidy proposals, or reject the staff's proposal entirely.

Contract for New Voting System in Travis County Approved

(AUSTIN, TX) - Today, at the recommendation of Travis County Clerk Dana DeBeauvoir, the Travis County Commissioners Court approved a contract with Election Systems and Software, LLC (ES&S) for a new voting system to be used in Travis County. Under the approved \$8.16 million contract, Travis County will acquire ES&S's



ExpressVote system, including software and



equipment. The system will be used in Travis County polling places beginning with the November 2019 Constitutional election.

"I am thrilled Travis County will be able to provide voters with what they have been asking for – the convenience and accessibility of an electronic voting system coupled with the security of a paper trail," said County Clerk Dana DeBeauvoir. "I am proud of our team, and the work that has been done so far, and I'm grateful for the Court's commitment to enhancing the security of the voting process in Travis County."

Today's successful contract vote by the Commissioners' Court was the result of a multi-year collaboration between the Travis County Clerk's Office, the Travis County Purchasing Of-

fice, and the Travis County Attorney's Office, along with various internal and external stakeholders.

"It is our mission at Travis County to provide safe and secure elections, without outside interference," added Travis County Judge Sarah Eckhardt. "With the new security features and added paper trail, Travis County voters can rest assured knowing their votes were properly counted."

"ES&S is proud to partner with one of the most well-respected jurisdictions in the country. Under County Clerk Dana DeBeauvoir's leadership and commitment to excellence in government, Travis County has established itself as a national leader in the conduct of secure and reliable elections administration," ES&S President & CEO

Tom Burt said. "This is a valuable long-term investment for Travis County, and we are honored to have the opportunity to partner with Ms. DeBeauvoir and her team. We look forward to serving the

voters of Travis County and the great State of Texas with our proven, secure, accurate and federally certified election products for years to come."

Beginning in Summer 2019, the County Clerk's office will kick-off a voter education campaign in order to provide an opportunity for voters to become familiar with the new system before it is used in polling places.

Press packets containing additional information are available through the County Clerk's Public Information Officer, and on the County Clerk's website.

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Deadline: August 15, 2018



City Council Place 1 Candidate Vincent Harding and supporters pose for a photo during a reception held at Hoovers Restaurant. Harding is running to replace Ora Houston on the Council. Villager photo