



## ENDORSEMENT



## 'Chronicle' Endorsements

### May 8 AISD and ACC boards of trustees elections

On May 8, Austin voters return to the polls for school board and Austin Community College board of trustees races. The Editorial Board has considered the contested races and makes the following recommendations to Chronicle readers, along with notes on a couple of uncontested races. Early voting runs from Monday, April 26, through Tuesday, May 4; please take the time to consider the candidates and vote.

— The Editorial Board



### AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

All trustees are elected at large.

#### Place 5: Vic Villarreal

#### Place 6: Guadalupe (Lupe) Sosa

Voters in the Austin Community College taxing district should count themselves fortunate — this year's two contested races feature several very strong candidates, with slates of good but consequently difficult choices. While each candidate brings something unique to the table, all struck us as intelligent, thoughtful, and passionate about their community college, and they recognize the school's importance to our local culture and economy. While it may be casually considered the "other state college" in Austin, ACC's 41,000-student enrollment now rivals that of the Forty Acres. Even 26-year-old ACC student Davis Jones (who struck us as still a little too inexperienced for such a weighty position) impressed us sufficiently that his candidacy is a strong argument for a student seat on the ACC board.

That said, we gave a slight edge to Villarreal in Place 5 and to Sosa in Place 6 (incumbent Jeffrey Richard, in Place 4, is unopposed).

Several candidates wisely argue that ACC's proposed growth — several suburban communities are considering joining the taxing district — while important to the school's long-term financial stability and for those residents currently paying out-of-district tuition, must not come at the expense of existing campuses. Both David Reiter and Fred McGhee were thoughtful on this sub-

ject, and Reiter's business and legal experience as well as McGhee's scholarly and activist background could be useful assets on this and related issues. Of the Place 5 candidates, former Leander mayor pro tem and current ACC management professor Villarreal can also offer actual municipal government experience. As he notes, that background will fill an experience void created when former Austin City Council Member Raul Alvarez left the board, and it tipped the balance for our Place 5 recommendation.

In Place 6, retired from a long career in government service (as an accountant, auditor, and program manager), Sosa has been persistently active in the ACC trenches for a decade, starting with her successful push to get the South Austin campus built across the street from Crockett High School, a boon to that part of town and the local students. A former ACC student herself, Sosa also grasps in a personal way the perspectives of many of the college's current students, and her policy refrain has been that "students come first." While Sosa's opponents, Raymond Hartfield and Michael Perrine, have experience as educational advocates along with other good qualities, Sosa has, by her dedication to ACC over many years, earned a seat as a trustee, where she will be an effective advocate both for students and the wider Central Texas community.

Worth noting: The ACC teachers' union also endorsed these two candidates, hopefully a sign of better prospective relations between the faculty and the board. ■

**Austin Community College**  
All trustees are elected at large.  
April 23, 2010

### Place 5: Vic Villarreal

Voters in the Austin Community College taxing district should count themselves fortunate — this year's two contested races feature several very strong candidates, with slates of good but consequently difficult choices. While each candidate brings something unique to the table, all struck us as intelligent, thoughtful, and passionate about their community college, and they recognize the school's importance to our local culture and economy. While it may be casually considered the "other state college" in Austin, ACC's 41,000-student enrollment now rivals that of the Forty Acres. Even 26-year-old ACC student Davis Jones (who struck us as still a little too inexperienced for such a weighty position) impressed us sufficiently that his candidacy is a strong argument for a student seat on the ACC board.

That said, we gave a slight edge to Villarreal in Place 5

Several candidates wisely argue that ACC's proposed growth — several suburban communities are considering joining the taxing district — while important to the school's long-term financial stability and for those residents currently paying out-of-district tuition, must not come at the expense of existing campuses. Both David Reiter and Fred McGhee were thoughtful on this subject, and Reiter's business and legal experience as well as McGhee's scholarly and activist background could be useful assets on this and related issues. Of the Place 5 candidates, former Leander mayor pro tem and current ACC management professor Villarreal can also offer actual municipal government experience. As he notes, that background will fill an experience void created when former Austin City Council Member Raul Alvarez left the board, and it tipped the balance for our Place 5 recommendation.

Worth noting: The ACC teachers' union also endorsed these two candidates, hopefully a sign of better prospective relations between the faculty and the board.

### MEET THE CANDIDATES — ACC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

April 16, 2010

#### Vic Villarreal ([www.vicforacc.com](http://www.vicforacc.com))

Villarreal has been an adjunct professor of management at ACC since 2005, a community volunteer, and is a former mayor pro tem of Leander. He also says that as a Latino Ph.D., he can be a role model in a region that is increasingly Hispanic.

"That, I think, offers the best balance of skills and traits to be an ACC trustee," Villarreal says. "I offer the experience of real-life policy-making." Villarreal says the expansion that Leander underwent during his term on its city council has prepared him for the challenges sure to come with ACC's proposed expansion.

He says that Austin is "a city of lifelong learners — a lot of folks are going to go to ACC who might not even be thinking about it right now." To continue that quality, ACC must "maintain our tuition at a level that's affordable. I know and I believe that low tuition is actually the best form of financial aid out there to begin with. ... We need to not tinker with tuition. There are other areas we can draw funds in. I've dealt with municipal budgets. I know there are other areas we can look at."

Villarreal has the endorsement of the ACC teachers union.