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city, mayor, issue, district, people, vote, running, brian, gay, years, incumbent, council member, candidates, houston, ordinance, city council, aids, sit, lesbian, put

SPEAKERS

[Music], Speaker 7, Speaker 6, Speaker 4, Brian Bradley, Speaker 2, Scott Lewis, Jimmy Carper, Speaker 5

J

Jimmy Carper 00:02

Oh, it must be Saturday night at midnight because you're listening to After Hours. A continuing tradition on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of After Hours is ready to bring you news, interviews, and music, here for gay and lesbian people. Just as Gloria Gaynor says in this song, it's time to open up your closets. We at After Hours urge everyone to come out of their closets. By our definition, that means standing up for yourself and taking responsibility for your own life. But if you feel that you can't come out right now because of your age, your job or whatever reason. That's okay, we're here for you too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of After Hours.

S

Scott Lewis 01:03

I'm feeling real strong tonight. I am, I am, I am. This is Scott Lewis here with my special guest, hostess with the mostest. I've seen her in action. Miss Vivian Lee. Let's say a word, say a word. She's not that one. I don't know that, I don't know that Vivien Leigh would have worn the outfit you have on. But that's another story entirely.

S

Speaker 2 01:21

Gone With the Wind.

J

Jimmy Carper 01:23

What does she have on, Scott?

S

Scott Lewis 01:24

More than I do. She's got the grunge look working tonight, which is real. It's a real happening look, it's a Seattle thing. She's got the flannel shirt around the waist kind of hanging there with the jeans, the black shoes. And what happened? I feel like Vanna White often. And you look like her, girl. And then of course she's got, she's got the t shirt on that says say it, women get AIDS, ACT UO. The interesting thing about this t shirt is that it has a woman right across the front there with an AIDS ribbon through her nipple. Isn't that attractive. So I want to unpin her and take a taste of that. Yeah. I'll save that for you Vivian. Anyway, tonight, we have just a whopping soccom exciting lineup. And I hope I don't sound as bad over the airwaves as I do through these horrendous headphones. What we have coming up tonight, we have if you don't know it, we have seven gay candidates running for political office in the November 2nd election. Four of those gentlemen are here. And one of them you will recognize is my normal co host, Mr. Brian Bradley. And because he is a, if you can call him normal, he will not, he's not here tonight co hosting with me because now that he is a candidate for office, he can't participate. So we have Vivian here filling in for him while he's gone. He is running for city council position at large. Number four, Gene Harrington who is running for district D. Rob Bridges, who is running for at large position number three, and Brian Bowen and who is running for good old Teflon Bob seat. So they are all here. And we're going to talk a little bit about what has motivated them, why they're doing it, what their chances are, why you need to get out and vote for them, and what they hope to accomplish and all that kind of good stuff. Then we have of course the queer music zone with Jimmy coming up at 1:15. Do your little Oh, she could be at another radio station blocks away, do that and you'd still hear it. And then later on after that, Vivian and I get to go round and round just like Brian and I always do and talk about the issues, what's going on in the news. Talk about what's important to you. We're excited. We're in a new studio, and I don't know why the hell those blinds are up but they're getting ready to come down because she ain't getting shot tonight. Um, so Vivian if you're this talkative all through the show, we're gonna have problems. Coming up for you right now.

J Jimmy Carper 04:20

How can she get a word in edgewise?

S Scott Lewis 04:21

Wow, this is true. Just stick it in there somewhere, girl. That's what everybody else does with me. Coming up now we're going to play a little song for you that Brian Bowen has done, kind of to advertise himself. And the fact that he's running for mayor. And we'll all hear it. And everyone else. They're all important.

J Jimmy Carper 04:43

They're all in it.

S Scott Lewis 04:44

And they are all in it. Especially Brian Bradley. He gets up in it so often like she's trying to now. Well, call you, will you have sex with my husband? Anyway, coming up right now we're gonna

play this song for Brian, of Brian Bowens and of the other day candidates. And when we come back we're gonna go in and sit down and talk to them about their upcoming election

[] [Music] 05:16

Vote on November 2 for Gary Van Ooteghem position one, Ray Hill position to Rob Bridges position three, Brian Bradley position four, Gene Harrington district D. And Brian Bowen for mayor, by the way, welcome to the gay 90s.

[] Jimmy Carper 05:41

And she's making noise. What is this?

[] Scott Lewis 05:48

Thank you. We're having disaster. Great. Great. Great. It's right. To have that sign up there. The production room. Yes. So we're sitting here with Brian Bowen, candidate for mayor, Rob Bridges. Because, you know, I was listening to the end of that song, we've got like 1, 2, 3, 4, district D and Mayor. It's like, everything's covered. Now there is one more for mayor, isn't there?

[] Brian Bradley 06:20

James Galvan is the official write-in for mayor.

[] Scott Lewis 06:23

The official write in.

[] Speaker 4 06:24

Okay, he's official. Obviously, you have to be, you have to have a right to vote.

[] Scott Lewis 06:30

Yes, you have to know how to write to vote for him? Which, which narrows his chances. Go around and introduce yourselves, what position you're running for, and then tell who the incumbent is? Do you want to start Brian?

[] Brian Bradley 06:44

Brian Bradley, City Council position four. And if you don't know my incumbent's name, I'm not

gonna tell you.

J Jimmy Carper 06:52

Smart man.

S Speaker 5 06:55

Gene Harrington, I'm running in District D, which is Montrose. And I don't think anyone has seen my incumbent for the last four years.

S Speaker 6 07:04

I'm Rob Bridges. I'm running for the at large position number three. There is no incumbent in my race. It's currently occupied by outgoing councilmember Jim Greenwood, who fell to the term limitations I asked this year.

S Speaker 7 07:19

And my name is Brian Bowen, and I'm running against none other than Bob Lanier himself.

S Scott Lewis 07:24

Why did you decide to run, Brian?

B Brian Bradley 07:26

Honestly, my main motivating factor, there's a lot of reasons, but the one that really pushed me over the edge was the Republican National Convention garbage that we heard inside the Astrodome. And you know, at that point, I realized we don't have time to waste you know, that the, the, the extreme rights are getting momentum. And, and like I say, I figured what better city to end that cultural war they declared on us in the same city that it started in. So hopefully, we'll do that.

S Scott Lewis 07:52

What was your motivator, Rob?

S Speaker 6 07:55

Part of it was last three, four years, a lot of the work that I've done in politics, is to try and motivate our community to get out of the business of electing our friends and get into the

business of electing ourselves. And this year, with the term limitations mess and the lawsuits, and all the various factors going on, I knew there would be a lot of opportunities for our candidates to run. And I scoped it all out. And I did wait until very close to the deadline to go down and file. But there were, there was a number of really excellent opportunities for our candidates, and I decided to jump into one of the races. Because it is time we just, we just have to keep running and keep running. There is only one way to learn how to run for office. And that's to run. That's right.

S

Scott Lewis 08:44

Did it, Gene, to the people that are sitting in the seats now, do they? Do they care that gay candidates are running? Do they feel challenged?

S

Speaker 5 08:54

I think they care very much. And I think initially at least, they felt challenged, I'm sure some still do. It is a difficult situation when you have some people holding office who believe that they have, quote, earned our endorsement, having to understand that until we speak for ourselves, we're never going to get our rights, that there is no human rights struggle in history, no human rights struggle in history, where the oppressed have ever obtained their rights through the the good graces of the powerful. This is, this is Park's, which would still be sitting in the back of the bus if she waited for some well intentioned white person to say, Oh, come up here and sit up up front. It just doesn't work that way and until we, our community understands that it has to speak for itself, we are never going to move forward. And the first step initially is, is challenging incumbents and it usually is incumbents who are friendly. I worked on Ron Dellums campaign 28 years ago in Berkeley, California, when he ran at that time, he's, Ron Dellums is a black congressman from, from California, he ran against the most liberal white member of Congress. And the man asked the question, why me? And Ron Dellums response is because I must speak for myself. And it's the same point that normally those constituencies where we might be able to be elected are going to be held by people who have been friendly to us who have been progressive, but we can't wait for our seat at the table until someone retires or dies. I mean, human rights isn't game that way.

S

Scott Lewis 10:38

Brian Bradley, do you think that the gay and lesbian community shares the same opinion that it's our time for a seat at the table has come? And if so, is that enough to get you, or any of you, a seat at the table?

B

Brian Bradley 10:54

Every single person sitting at this table can win. If the people will get out and vote and support us and listen to us and help us. We have enough of whatever talent it takes, whatever measure is needed, we can exact it from ourselves if we work hard enough.

S

Scott Lewis 11:13

Is this, does anyone in any of these races really have a serious chance of winning? Or is this more about sending a message to the incumbents, that we have a city council that's not responsive enough to the community?

S

Speaker 5 11:27

Let me let me say for district D, there is not only a serious chance of winning, I'd say I have at least a 50/50 chance of winning. The demographics of district D and again, now district D is the district that includes Montrose, show that the, that if Montrose turns out as we expect it to, I should wind up with at least, at least 40% of the vote without getting substantial help in the rest of the district. And I am going to have some substantial help. So to be very honest, I, this is not a campaign of issues. To me, it's a campaign to win and it's winnable and the campaign that I am running is a campaign that is aimed at winning, we expect to spend \$20,000, we will have to campaign offices, etc. So it is not just a, just a, um, an attempt to to teach people how to vote. This is a very serious campaign. And we, we, I think that I have a very good chance of winning and I'm running to win and I think the other candidates are doing the same thing.

S

Scott Lewis 12:47

Do you, the incumbent in your race did not even screen, who and it incl-- his district, as you said includes Montrose, did not even screen with the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus. Is that a sign that he's not worried? Or is it a sign that he just doesn't care?

S

Speaker 5 13:04

It could be a sign that he forgot. He also, if he didn't, if he didn't, he didn't screen with GLPC, that, that's not the first indication that he's not up on our issues. He tabled a proposal for a million dollars in federal money for HIV prevention and drug prevention. We had gotten that, that money Brian I and others had worked on. We had gotten the money from the federal government, it was not coming out of the city budget, he tabled that. He tried to kill the city health department and turn it over to the county in HIV prevention under John Lindsay, give me a break. He has shown absolutely no interest in or knowledge about the issues which are of paramount interest to the people in Montrose. And as far as the, the issues in the rest of the district. So the police review board, he's against that, I think that on issue after issue after issue, there's one progressive candidate in the race, the district D and his name is Gene.

S

Speaker 7 14:11

I would say my incumbent didn't screen either. The mayor did not come by to acknowledge us. And I think that a lot of the reasons why they don't is more because they're taking for granted, we're, we're going to get that endorsement. And that's not necessarily true. I didn't get it, you know, being an unknown and and already having five people to concentrate on trying to get elected to office and already starting on my own. They'd be good. You're on your own, do the best you can. But you know, and I understand that and I respect that. And I agree with that. I

think they made the right decision. But I think more than, like I say, more than, more than forgetting or not knowing about our issues. They just assumed that we were going to get those endorsements and so didn't even bother trying. And you know, but of course, my opponent's not going to debate me, he's, you know, I don't think he's got any opponents at all, he's, I mean, any endorsements at all, I don't think he's going to seek them. He's got \$750,000 in his treasury, I don't think he's going to spend a dime of it. I don't think he, he feels like I'm that serious of a candidate. That was true on May 18, when I announced, but on May, on September 20, when he made his decision to keep four rubber stamp council members on the ballot, to keep his support on council. He lost a lot of, a lot of support, and probably encouraged people to look even harder for alternatives. And so now it's a matter of just getting the name out. And I don't have a lot of money. I'm not getting a lot of support yet. But I don't think that I'm really going to need it. Like I say, I'm at the top of the ballot, they say that's supposed to give me 10 points. I'm counting on the gay community, that's supposed to be another 10 points. I'm sure the black community, the Hispanic community, I mean, on down the line, I think it'll be a lot easier. I think we're going to surprise a lot of people.

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Speaker 6 16:01

I'd like to sort of turn the your your question over on its head as far as whether any of us have a realistic chance of winning, there's only one guarantee in politics. And that is, if you don't run, you won't win. In, in 1989, I remember when Beverley Clark ran for office, everyone in town wrote her off, as you know, a Mickey Mouse candidate, had no chance of winning. And she won. You know, there were factors at work in that race, obviously, the incumbent shot himself in both feet. But one thing that we know is there's, uh, a gay block vote out there, that can have a great deal of power, if it is motivated to go to the polls and vote. And that's a lot of what we're concentrating on doing, getting our people excited about being involved in elected politics, because we're in this to win. In my, my own particular race with no incumbent and 13 opponents, we're not expecting anybody to get more than, oh, say, between 15 and 20% of the vote on the first general election. So for, for myself to have a strong gay black vote behind me, 10% of the vote makes me a front runner. In some races, you know, that would be considered a drop in the bucket. But in this race, I have a realistic shot, as does, as do all of the other candidates here. Because like I said, there are no guarantees. And if you're in there running hard, you can win.

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Scott Lewis 17:31

What happened there several seats. Were there up to a dozen people on the ballot for one seat? How do they narrow that down into a runoff? Is it the top 2% yet, or even if it's 18% and 12%?

S

Speaker 6 17:47

That's does pass, where you'll have the somebody with just those numbers, 20 and 18%. And only those two qualify for the runoff and, and the rest all go home.

S

Scott Lewis 17:58

I would think that there would probably have to be one issue that is closest to each of you that would have motivated, that's not being addressed correctly, that would probably motive-- have motivated each of you into your position to run. Could you tell us a little bit about what that issue is, why you feel it's not being addressed, and what you want to do to correct it or what you think needs to be done?

B

Brian Bradley 18:21

I think that's probably a mistake on your part, Scott, as well as many other people who may think the same way. When gay candidates or lesbian candidates are put forth, everyone always assumes that they're there on a strictly gay issue platform only because that's the only thing that they're knowledgeable about. that's the only thing that they care about, it's the only thing that they're experienced in, but nothing could be further from the truth. We all grow up in straight worlds we all take part up in every aspect of society. And then we live in our own subculture, gay and lesbian worlds also. So if anything, I think we're overqualified for any of the positions above and beyond the straight person. For myself, it's, it's evenly split down the middle. Human rights issues, gay and lesbian, civil rights ordinances and things of that nature, healthcare issues with particular influences on HIV education and prevention. In the city of Houston, and the state of Texas, we have a system where the state legislature says the county is to deliver services for care. And the cities are to deliver education and prevention with minimal care, like you know, influenza and things of that inoculations. But the city of Houston has an infant mortality rate that is higher than Bolivia's. We only inoculate one in 12 children. We spend \$8 in hospitalization for every dollar we spend in neonatal, uh, education. We just lost out on a huge hunk of \$90 million of federal money for lead abatement, majority of the children in Houston that are suffering from lead abatement are the ones that can least afford medical care. However, following losing out on that, because the city simply did not make application for it, city council and the mayor turned around and created a new ordinance last week, stating that if your house needs a lead abatement, you must do it or you're in violation of city code x, y, z. So they're going to get some money, they're going to, look like they're doing something about the problem. But I don't want anyone to forget that they passed up a large part of \$90 million of someone else's money. That's, that's how healthcare is performed in Houston, Texas, if the feds pay for it, if the states pay for it, it might get done. But less than 1% of the HIV and STD budget for the city of Houston Health Department came from city coppers. But yet they're charged with doing the whole job. If the CDC doesn't do it, or the state doesn't do it, it doesn't get done. That's why we're the fifth leading city in the country with AIDS. That's why we have 40,000 Houstonians HIV positive. That's why nothing is being done. And that's why I should be on city council.

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Scott Lewis 21:11

Gene, was there something, a straw that broke the camel's back for you?

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Speaker 5 21:14

I think it was sort of a general issue. Um, district D now, the new district D is the most diverse and the most progressive district in the city with the addition of Montrose to the old D where I've always lived, it has become much more progressive. It was a progressive district, but it's

become much more so, much more diverse. And looking at the present leadership in District D, in essence, it's a vacuum, there has been real, no real leadership. And when there has been action, it has been not progressive, but regressive. For instance, on, in the area of AIDS, in the area of drug abuse, in the area of civilian, civilian police, civilian review panel, in the area of investigation of Gate Four, in the area of health care benefits for city workers. I could go on and on. I'm sure that the vast majority of the people listening have a different view than the President inc--incumbent. Frankly, he has voted more with John Goodner and Christin Hartung than he has with Ben Reyes and and Judson Robinson. We don't have a progressive voice. And I know what it's like to be in a city when your elected officials are unresponsive. I contracted AIDS in this city when this city did not spend a penny of city money on HIV prevention. And I am not going to sit back and allow this election to occur. I'm the only other candidate in the race, if I was not running the present city council member for district D would walk into office without without even having to run for election. He doesn't deserve another term. And he certainly doesn't deserve another term without at least discussing the issues which I think we all are interested in.

S

Speaker 6 23:37

Rob, I'd like to echo what Brian started off with that. There's a presumption out there with you know, some of the some people that all we're going to talk about is gay and lesbian issues. For myself. the campaign slogan that I've put forward is back to basics. What I've seen over the past 15 years with council, when we adopted the present structure of government, you've got five at large members, nine district council members and the mayor, the at large members sort of see that as nine district council members, a mayor and five junior mayors. And when, a complaint that I hear up all the time, from your basic average Joe on the street, when they call an at large council member for basic services, whether it's a broken sewer line or a pothole in front of their house or or a problem in the neighborhood, the at large council member says, well tell me dear, who's your district council member, let me give you their phone number. And they dump their problems downward to the district council members who are already overburdened and while the at large members are off with their pet glamour issues that they feel will catapult them into higher office. Having said that is my general campaign issue, something that's, that's motivated me relative to our community and a lot of others is hate crimes, which I've worked on for the past four years, trying to get Houston Police Department number one to recognize that they occur. Number two, to track them properly, to record them properly, and to take action to help various communities stop them before they occur. I had thought we were making progress, after the Paul Broussard incident when he was was murdered in this neighborhood. And we had, had a very good dialogue about that issue. And here we are, again, two years, you know, two years later, that similar incident a couple of weeks ago, people beaten, robbed, you know, called take this faggot, was serious bodily injury. And we find him, to find out that Houston Police Department has not properly recorded these hate crimes, is reluctant to even label them hate crimes, these statistics are not being passed on to the Justice Department, which they are mandated to do. So if we don't know the extent of the problem in our own city, how are we going to know where to allocate resources to, to curb the problem, to help communities, you know, we can't expect the police to be there to stop every hate crime, but we do expect their help to help us to protect ourselves. And if we can't even count on them for that much help. We need to be at the table addressing this issue loudly and continuously. That's, that's part of what's, what's motivating me to run.

S

Speaker 5 26:35

Let me just point out that that's not a gay lesbian issue. My district is has more, lacks probably gay and lesbians and certainly for, and also as a very large percentage of, of Hispanics and Asians and certainly all four of those communities are interested in the very issue that Rob raised.

S

Speaker 7 26:57

I just, I just wanted to touch on something that kind of correlates with everything that everyone has just now said, you know, from an council member passing their duties on to a district council member to hate crimes or whatever the situation is, District D is a perfect example. The incumbent there, my cornerstone of my campaign is to reorganize city government from a strong mayor form of government to city manager form, which I even got the idea from Rob Bridges himself, what, four years ago was it or two years ago who did, redistricting came up the first time, and we went to the public hearings. So I'm not totally unknown, but I'm sure Rob recognized the face and didn't remember the name. But basically, there's a lot of benefit to it. You know, most people will tell you there's not a lot of difference between the effectiveness and the efficiency in regards to the constituencies. Whether it's a strong mayor form of government, whether it's a city manager form, the advantage of not having a strong mayor form of government, though, is to keep the mayor, one person having so much power concentrated into one hand, you know, basically the present mayor has taken democracy into his own hands each and every time it was convenient or necessary for his own political gain. The first time was in May of 1992 when he convinced all but two city council members five months into his new administration, to sue the City Comptroller George Greanias who refused to sign off on the judgment bonds, \$25 million woth without a legally required public vote. Initially, I mean, eventually this lawsuit was dropped because of bad publicity. So they're already worried about it. I asked for the resignations on August 31. And, and you can see it in their eyes. They are worried about it. I think they are scared. And the district D council member was the first one to contact me about reorganizing government to a city manager form and he said he likes it just the way it is. So not only will you find his voting record, a very parallel to Christin Hartung's and and John Goodner's, but also the mayor's because it's basically a situation where you'd have to be hard pressed to buck the mayor under the present form because he can, he controls everybody that does everything. For the district's initiatives, if they got people repairing potholes or cutting weeds, he can stop them anytime he wants to. So I think it's a matter of redistributing the power among each council member to be a lot more accountable to their constituents, you know, they can't tell a department head to go and cut a lot, to go and cut some weeds, but yet they're the ones that get called.

B

Brian Bradley 29:31

Scott, at the GLPC endorsement meeting the other night, an incumbent spoke and that incumbent stated that nothing could be done until eight votes were there. This person wasn't willing to go out and take a position on our most important issues until they were guaranteed of having company of seven people. As the potholes are being fixed and they will be and the sewer lines are being rerouted and they wil be, and Metro is putting new buses or taking new lines and rearranging them. We forgot that we're dealing with human beings here and you, I know cities are municipalities and they're businesses, and that should be what government is in the minimum. But still the human aspect is there. The world has historically looked for gay and

lesbian peoples, for the human touch, for artistic measures, intelligence, beauty, compassion. And as we're fixing the potholes and things like that, I hope that someone's there addressing the fact that the city of Houston has a tremendous problem with human rights issue. We have crimes being carried out against us, but no laws to protect us. You know, you're distracting me, Sarah, quit.

 Scott Lewis 30:57

I want to know how much power does a city councilmember really have? I've sat here and watched for the past two years, they haven't really done, I haven't seen any any major steps in any direction on any issue.

 Brian Bradley 31:11

But what, what you what you've not seen is leadership, you haven't seen someone say this is simply how it is. It's not unlike Mr. Clinton engaged in the military, he compromised on basic, fundamental principles of integrity. City Council, as it sits now has very little to no integrity, we need someone there that will say we have a health care emergency with HIV, I don't want to hear about your moralistic reasons or why we shouldn't do anything about it. I don't want to hear anything about your religious reasons why we shouldn't do anything about it. This is a public health care issue that threatens each and every citizen of the city. That is why we will have a very aggressive education campaign. That's why we will have a very aggressive testing program of our city health department. And we will get people into the health care system. So on and so forth, you don't have leaders. And the reason you don't have leaders is these people want to use city council as a stepping stone to some other higher office. And they don't want to gain political baggage at this level, so

 Speaker 6 32:16

It's very minimum, the, each council member, whether you have seven votes with you or not, they have the power of a bully pulpit. The council member, if a council member calls a press conference, the press is there. They have every Tuesday, they have the opportunity to speak out loudly on any issue, they care to speak out about that. That is the one thing that no other council member nor the mayor can take away from you. You have the power of a loud, broad voice that is heard across the city. If nothing else, they have that power, which we don't have.

 Speaker 7 32:50

That's true. You know, when they did borrow the judgment bonds, he, the mayor did not get two votes. One came from Dale Gorczynski, who ended up running for county judge, and the other was from Vince Ryan, who's now running for county judge. So I'm not so sure background had anything to do with those decisions, either. But it's a lot like, you know, they, they look at, they know they're not going to get reelected, if they don't support the mayor for his things, because he's not going to support him for their things. And so it's, you know, you, you scratch my back, I'll scratch yours.

S

Scott Lewis 33:21

And what happens to our thing?

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Speaker 7 33:23

That's right. The mayor says that he wants to see city government run as a business and treat the constituencies, the constituents as customers. And I think it ought to be run more like a household and you treat the constituents as family because these are family, their brothers and sisters, whether they're related to you or in spirit, they're still family. And as Houstonians, we all need to be one big family. And all of us pull in one direction. And you know, six years from now we're in the 21st century, we've got a lot of things to get through. We've got a lot of AIDS research to do, we've got a lot of, a lot of research to do on complying with the Clean Air Act, getting some kind of viable transportation system through here. There's just so much to do that's not getting done that, you know, it's sickening, it really is. It's sickening. We're paying these people to do it. We elected them to do it, and they're not doing it.

S

Scott Lewis 34:11

Day one in office. What's the first thing you want it? What's the first issue you want to tackle, the first ordinance you want to put forth, whatever the first thing you want to do?

B

Brian Bradley 34:21

I would imagine we're going to be fighting each other to get to Anna Russell's office and the mayor's office to have things put on the agenda. There's nothing to preclude any city council member presently or when we're elected from asking the mayor to put it on the agenda, domestic partnership, spousal benefits, anti-discrimination, HIV education, funding, you name it, it's there for the asking. That doesn't mean that it will be delivered. It doesn't mean it will be, it's gonna be a hard fight. But so far, nobody is asking for the things that are essential to our survival. So I imagine Gene is going to have a whole list of them that will overlap mine, that will overlap Rob's, that will overlap Brian's, and so on and so forth. But at least we'll be doing it.

S

Speaker 5 35:07

I think my first attempt would be the passage of an ordinance barring discrimination in city employment based on any, on any factors that are not particularly relevant to the job description.

S

Speaker 7 35:29

I'd say Houston employees, not just the city, I mean, not just city employees.

S

Speaker 5 35:33

Right, except the the, the ordinance that was recalled was a city ordinance for city employment. And that, I think that's just basic human rights for everyone that no one should be denied city employment, unless the reason for their denial has something to do with the with their job description, whether it's their length of hair, their political views, their sexual orientation, the color of their skin, or their child's first name.

S

Speaker 6 36:06

First day in office, first thing is to have the office painted pink. Totally. Seriously, we've all got,

S

Speaker 5 36:23

I'm asking to be on a different floor than the other four, though.

S

Speaker 6 36:30

I think we're all in agreement, what probably would be the first thing we would go down is to the, Anna Russell's office and to file an ordinance for non-discrimination in employment, housing and public transportation in the city. It's overdue, it's been a long time coming. It's something that I think we can get eight votes on and survive.

S

Speaker 7 36:49

We're six of the votes. So it really it'll help. My, my first goal is going to be really aimed at at getting an ordinance put together that will change the strong mayor form of government to a city manager form, we won't be able to actually, we'll have to do it by city charter. And we cannot hold another city charter election until the following election year, is actually January of '96. So we'll have a full two years. In the meantime, to basically try one out. The controller offered the idea would be to rehire the chief administrative officer that has been left vacant since Al Haines departed. And Bob Lanier has basically been that position. They would basically oversee the day to day operations of city government, we'd hire a professional city manager, someone who is a city manager, has city manager several times on their resume. The mayor then and, and the entire council would basically be responsible for starting to study future problems, like the landfill overload, the AIDS cases are not going away, they're not getting the fear, youth violence and gangs, you know, everybody's talking about it. And it has been for the last two years, and nobody has done anything about it. I'd say myself being 27, how old are you, Brian?

B

Brian Bradley 38:01

110.

S

Speaker 7 38:02

So, but we're still young enough to relate to the peer pressure that's involved, that makes the people lose that makes the children lose their self esteem and start to feel a less, less of a feeling of belonging. You know, if anybody ever felt that, a homosexual would I'm quite sure, at any point in their life, you know, feels alone and wants to be accepted and wants to be included. And children are the same way. And that's why they're getting into these these gangs, their numbers and their ideas and their auto minds put together I think is what's actually making the violence come out. But it's just a matter of from the very first day is starting to cooperate with the City Council instead of running the entire city by running the city council.