



Challenger Jalen McKee-Rodriguez defends his campaign contributions, saying friends he made while moving frequently as part of a military family support his vision.



Incumbent Jada Andrews-Sullivan says developers contributed to her campaign because she fights for the East Side district.

Photos by Robin Jerstad / Contributor

District 2 runoff candidates clash over contributions, accessibility

By Liz Hardaway
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With early voting set to begin Monday in a runoff election, the two remaining District 2 candidates went head-to-head in debates this week.

Challenger Jalen McKee-Rodriguez accused Councilwoman Jada Andrews-Sullivan of being beholden to developers because most of her campaign contributions are in \$500 increments — the contribution limit for a City Council candidate.

“I’m no one’s puppet,” Andrews-Sullivan said, adding that developers contributed to her campaign because they saw her as someone who fights for the East Side district. Just because developers make contri-

butions doesn’t mean they can control policy, she said.

McKee-Rodriguez and Andrews-Sullivan are in a runoff for the seat after finishing first and second, respectively, in the

May 1 general election. In a 12-candidate field, neither won a majority of the votes cast.

The debate Thursday night was hosted by the Community of Churches for Social Action at the Dominion Church of God In Christ.

Pointing to McKee-Rodriguez’s many political contributions from outside Texas, Andrews-Sullivan asked why District 2 is being “sold out.”

McKee-Rodriguez grew up in a military family and moved around a lot. He said many friends throughout his life contributed to his campaign because they believe in his vision for San Antonio.

“We are not being sold out to out-of-state people,” he said. “We are being contributed to.”

Atessia “Tess” House, an attorney, served as moderator. She asked the two candidates how they plan to communicate with constituents, how they would partner with faith-based communities on city projects

and what they would fight for in terms of bond funding. She also asked about their plans to address poverty and housing while attracting young professionals to the district.

House acknowledged the criticism Andrews-Sullivan has faced for not being accessible to District 2 residents during the pandemic.

Andrews-Sullivan challenged the claim, saying she answered Facebook messages from constituents. She said that while her office was closed because of the pandemic, her staff’s office lines were redirected to their personal phones to increase accessibility.

Andrews-Sullivan said she has quarterly meetings with faith congregations. She also wants faith leaders to receive

training for trauma-informed care in order to assist the district’s younger residents.

McKee-Rodriguez said he would continue these quarterly meetings. He also wants to cre-

ate an advisory board for District 2, which would include faith-based leaders, to gather input on budget and policy matters.

The two candidates expressed support for using city bond funds to renovate the Ella Austin Community Center, which provides social services to the East Side.

In the May 1 general election, McKee-Rodriguez collected 2,261 votes, or 26 percent of the total. Andrews-Sullivan received 1,442 votes, nearly 17 percent of the total. A majority of the vote is required to win outright and avoid a runoff.

Council candidates in Districts 1, 3, 5 and 9 are also in runoff elections.

The election is June 5. Early voting begins Monday and ends

June 1. To view a sample ballot or find early voting locations, visit Bexar.org/elections.

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