1. Please introduce yourself and share why you are seeking a seat on the San Antonio City Council, including why you feel you are the best candidate for the position.

My name is William “Cruz” Shaw, and I am running for District 2 because District 2 is my home. It's where I work; it's where I live; and, more than anything, it's where I serve.

Over the past year, I have spent a lot of time visiting with residents from all across the District about the vision and direction for our community, and they have a lot to say. I'm running for City Council to make sure those voices are heard.

From promoting a healthy workforce and providing education opportunities for all, we need to create an environment in which the residents of District 2 can thrive. With a background as a small business owner, board chair of SAGE, and former chairman of the city’s zoning commission, I believe I have the right mixture of experience and skill to help move the district forward.

2. What steps would you take as a city council member to strengthen the City’s business environment?

Encouraging conversation and business development within and among ecosystems is important. I'd like to ensure that the CoSA is encouraging networking throughout all our thriving industries, as well as building productive relationships within our growing communities. As a CoSA representative, it's my duty to ensure our chambers of commerce are involved in policy making conversations when the topic of business is involved.

In addition to ensuring connectivity throughout the city is highlighted, it is my job as D2 city councilman to ensure my district is producing a quality workforce equipped to serve in all facets of our economy. This means that in addition to a general labor force, we need to ensure we are developing individuals who can work in our biotech industry, our cyber industry, and other thriving areas of economic impact. This will require working with the Chamber of Commerce to ensure we’re up to date on what type of workforce is currently needed and what workforce needs are soon to come.
3. How would you encourage the City of San Antonio to develop safe, effective and efficient multi-modal transportation systems that moves people throughout San Antonio and this region?

Regarding moving people within San Antonio, we need to ensure that we are utilizing our current transportation systems in the most efficient method. We need to work closer with our public transit options to ensure they are meeting modern demands of citizens who want to live, work, and play, without having to sit in traffic for unnecessarily long periods of time. I would also encourage us as a city to analyze how well we create hubs of live, work, and play. Let’s encourage residential districts that are closer to business and vice versa. For example, I am excited by the development of the Tech Corridor in downtown San Antonio. This shows how we can create a geographic ecosystem that not only creates synergy and cooperation but also allows employees to take advantage of our growing residential opportunities in our urban communities.

Regarding regional transportation, as San Antonio grows and brings in new business, we need more focus on how to connect those businesses with other cities in more rapid manner. We’ve made significant strides in the past couple years with direct flights to LA and New Orleans, but I would love to push for direct flights to Boston and Portland and would love to explore federal waivers for direct flights to Reagan National for our government-related industries. In addition to continuous improvements of our air service, I think it’s a good idea to continue to consider the viability of rail transportation to regional destinations like Austin and Monterrey. While funding is an obviously absent factor, there’s no harm in continuing to explore future possibilities for these options and possible joint funding mechanisms with other regional partners that would benefit.

4. Do you support the City’s 2017 Bond Program? Which components do you feel are most important to sustaining the economic vitality of a growing city?

I am 100% in support of the CoSA 2017 Municipal Bond. In the long run, all components of this bond package impact the economic vitality of our growing city. Whether it is park improvements in our urban core or infrastructure repairs that allow businesses the access they need, all six of the propositions in this bond are vital. The manner in which this Bond relied on guiding principles that encouraged strategic development via leveraging private dollars with public investment is impressive, along with the majority focus on transportation and connectivity. The more we concentrate on getting customers to our businesses, and employees to their offices, the more efficient and effective we can be as business owners.