

Candidate Questionnaire on Austin Energy Issues

Participating Organizations:

- Public Citizen
- SEED Coalition
- Sierra Club
- Solar Austin
- Texas ROSE (Ratepayers' Organization to Save Energy)
- Clean Water Action
- Austin Climate Action Network
- Texas Drought Project
- First Unitarian Universalist Green Sanctuary Ministry
- Wildflower Unitarian Universalist Church

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- 1. The mission of the Austin Energy Department is to deliver clean, affordable reliable energy and excellent customer service. During your term, what will be the most important challenge for the city in regard to Austin Energy?**

The most important challenges include continuing to increase our ability to produce power from alternative methods while holding down rates.

Depending on the makeup of the council, we may also have a challenge in keeping Austin Energy owned by the people of Austin.

I would also like to see the rate breaks we offer for out-of-city customers and industrial contracts to expire. Companies should pay their fair share.

- 2. From a citywide and district perspective, briefly describe your vision for managing and improving Austin Energy?**

I'd like to work hard to increase energy efficiency in all homes and buildings. The rewards and benefits are too great. From a district perspective, I'd like to encourage more installations of solar energy in new developments.

- 3. What is your position on climate change?**

It's worse than we think. It's too real and we must do much more to combat it, and prepare for it to get much worse.

- 4. Do you support implementation of the recommendations in the report developed by the [Austin Generation Resource Planning Task Force](#) and are there any other specific changes you would like made to the [Austin Energy Resource, Generation and Climate Protection Plan to 2020](#)? What would you change and how?**

I do support them.

I support keeping Austin Energy under the control and direction of the city council. I would like to make sure our efforts to change to sources beyond coal and natural gas do not severely impact rates for those who can least afford it.

New developments should be Zero Energy buildings.

- 5. City Council serves as the board of directors for Austin Energy. As a council member, what do you consider your role to be in regard to Austin Energy's governance?**

I support keeping Austin Energy under the control and direction of the city council. I believe it's important to make sure our utility is exceptionally well run and serves the people better than any other electric utility.

- 6. What renewable energy resources and programs should be incorporated into the Austin Energy generation resource mix?**

I favor painting all flat rooftops white to lessen heat on commercial buildings and reducing cooling costs. I also favor more investments in wind energy. Bill Clinton talks a lot about this.

- 7. How and to what extent should Austin Energy provide customer energy efficiency programs?**

We should do as much as we can. My family took advantage of rebates to improve the energy efficiency of our home. Every home should be improved and retrofitted.

- 8. What are your thoughts on whether Austin Energy should invest in more nuclear reactors and whether the utility should remain involved in the existing South Texas Project reactors after their currently scheduled retirement dates of 2027 and 2028 if they get relicensed for 20 additional years?**

I don't think we should continue to rely on nuclear energy. We should plan to switch to other safer and more reliable forms of power generation.