

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 challenge will be continued affordability on electric rates for our consumers and small businesses. I think we also have to be careful to run Austin Energy like a business and demonstrate to state leadership that municipal government can run a utility sensibly. To fail to do so could encourage further the legislature to force municipalities such as Austin to force the sale of Austin Energy which I believe would be unwise and would cost both taxpayers and ratepayers in the long run.

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

Austin Energy needs smart managers and qualified personnel in the field of electricity and energy. We need skilled management that understands the challenges of dealing with an elected governing board in a community that is one of the fastest growing in the nation. We need a utility that will meet all these and more.

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

My position is that when it comes to any environmental issue(s), science must set the standard and lead the way.

- 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?**

My position of that with at least nine new members of the City Council taking office in January (and possibly ten), the report and the plan should be fully vetted and reviewed by the new City Council before going forward to make sure that there is both consensus on the way forward as well certainty that all assumptions and background are correct. We need to be thorough and educated and make sure the entire new City Council is on board.

- 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?**

As I referenced in Question #2, the members of the Austin City Council serve as the Board of Directors of Austin Energy. We have the responsibility to hire qualified, competent personnel who can get the job done and be responsive and effective for both the Board of Directors (i.e. the Council) and to the ratepayers. If elected I would want to serve on an Audit Committee in order to be able to track both the finances of Austin Energy as well as the management practices.

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

As a Member of the Board of Directors/i.e. the City Council, I will depend on the people we hire and the strategies that they develop to make that determination. If we are going to run Austin Energy like a business in order to keep in public hands we must move forward in a businesslike fashion?

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

Austin Energy has had great success with a number of these programs. Logically we should continue the ones that are working, that save money, promote conservation and are environmentally sound and review ones that have been less effective to determine why the results have been not as satisfactory.

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?

The City of Austin attempted to sell its share in STNP before with not much success. I do not see that changing given the price we would want for the capital we have invested. Future energy demands may well be met by more affordable means.