

# 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

**Candidate Name:** Tina Cannon

**District:** 10

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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?**

Maintaining fiscal responsibility in balancing our usage and our rates, shutting down Fayette; looking into alternative sources; deploying conservation efforts that have a meaningful impact.

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

As a past auditor myself, I am very data driven when it comes to decision-making. We need to deploy a complete unbiased third party fiscal and operational audit of AE (and AWU) to provide a baseline for the new rookie class of Council members to gauge and compare performance metrics of Austin against sister cities with public utilities. There have been enough outcry from citizen with regards to management, that too needs to be addressed within the scope of the audit and determine if a change in leadership is needed. I am not in favor of letting the utility go private, it should remain under the control and ownership of the COA.

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

As a lifelong Democrat, I subscribe to the party platform on climate change being a scientific fact that cannot and should not be ignored.

- 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?**

Fully support the Taskforce recommendations.

- 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?**

Oversight, audit, review of performance metrics, rate setting as it comes under advisement from Task Force, monitoring best practices on budget allocations/transfers, continuing the charge of zero-greenhouse and reducing CO2 emissions.

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

All tools in the environmental toolkit would be reviewed and considered. We should be a progressive leader in green jobs, green deployment and alternative energy. San Antonio should not be beating Austin in regards to solar, we should be setting national standards in solar.

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

Careful examination as to the real measurable results vs. costs of certain programs should be considered. For example, when you look at costs for weatherization and the impact we still need to make on low and low-moderate homes, there is still work to be done here. We need to evaluate programs based on results/costs and adoption before making sweeping decisions. A complete cost-benefit analysis on each program.

**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 have major concerns with nuclear and the amount of water required to run nuclear. At this time, until industry and environmental folks try to educate me otherwise, I am not in favor of renewing the Project Reactors.