

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?**

Keeping our energy affordable while at the same time meeting the goals of improved conservation and green energy programs. Increasing energy cost is but one of the issues facing Austinites and while we need to increase our green energy programs we cannot all afford to keep up as we much as we would all like. Our summer's are becoming hotter and for many maintaining a comfortable life is expensive.

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

I would like to see more programs that are more affordable to district 3 residents. I am committed to making more education and energy efficiency programs more available and affordable for district 3 residents.

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

Climate change exist, always has. I believe for many it was the worst marketing of an issue ever. I am not personally sure how or of we can stop it but we have to try.

- 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 support it but would like to consider going further with solar in place and affordability.

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 would like to see the politics taken out of Austin Energy. Politics was the direct cause for our needing a drastic rate increase a couple of years ago and politics lead to the biomass purchasing error. We need to listen to the experts that we pay to run the utility while still maintaining some control through council. I would like to look at other cities as examples for how the best way to achieve this.

I want to also begin reducing our budget transfers and spending through our utilities and offer some truth in taxation. When someone has multiple ways to hide paying for programs it denies transparency that citizens demand. With this extra funding saved in the utility we can better invest in new green energy and conservation programs.

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

I want to see more solar at the local level. Solar on every house that wants it and for every neighborhood that can get together to build it. I want to create a financing system that takes away the high initial cost of residential and small business rooftop solar.

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

They need to be more affordable and available to more homeowners. There are times that they do not make sense. Having to use only certain companies often leads to a higher cost investment of r residents. We should open it up to more companies and also allow for the resident to do it themselves with a simple inspection afterwards. We should use tools to help find homes that really need to improve their efficiency and approach those residents to help them. The amount f energy savings through efficiency could help take the burden off of having to find new forms of energy generation.

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?