

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: Jose Valera

District: 3

Email: valeraforaustin@gmail.com

Phone: 512-547-8972

- 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 significant challenge will be maintaining affordability as Austin's energy generation sources are transitioned to cleaner solar and wind power. In a time where many of Austin's lower income households are struggling with affordability, it will be important to not add to that financial burden through utility prices.

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

For both the city and the district, Austin Energy must provide affordable energy. As part of that affordability plan, Austin Energy should continue to implement efficiency programs that ultimately save residents money and reduce energy usage. Austin Energy must also migrate its current carbon energy generation sources to cleaner sources in a way that does not force energy consumers to bear the burden.

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

I believe the use of fossil fuels contributes to climate change and should therefore be reduced. The City Council and Austin Energy should work to further integrate alternative and affordable alternative energy sources.

- 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?**

Yes, I support the recommendations in the Task Force report.

- 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 view it as the Austin City Council's goal to establish policy and long term strategic goals for Austin Energy. This policy should focus on providing Austin residents with affordable energy options, increasing energy efficiency in homes and businesses across Austin, and providing energy in an environmentally conscious way.

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

Austin Energy should incorporate both solar and wind into its generation resource mix.

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

Austin Energy should continue and perhaps expand its customer energy efficiency programs. These programs should be supported via rebates, tax exemptions, and/or tax credits. Moreover, these programs should encompass options for low income households to improve residential energy efficiency and decrease utility rates.

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 do not believe Austin Energy should invest more in nuclear reactors and believe that Austin Energy should not remain involved in the South Texas Project reactors after their scheduled retirement.