

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: Mario Cantu

District: 3

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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?**

As I see it, our greatest challenge will be keeping energy costs reasonably affordable for all of the citizens of Austin, while providing clean and reliable energy to everyone regardless of socioeconomic class.

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

I will work with the council members to address any issues and concerns past to present with Austin Energy in regards to management, efficiency, expenditures and costs.

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

It is my belief that we must acknowledge and address climate change and its current, as well as future, implications. Drought and flooding will be an increasing concern due to the increase of climate change and, as a community, we must be prepared for any and all foreseeable disasters.

- 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 would include a comprehensive drought protocol for minor to major events that would outline how to handle water needs and usage. Also include emphasis on the General Fund transfer policy will need to be evaluated in conjunction with the review of the electric rates.

- 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?**

We the City Council are the board of directors for Austin Energy and oversight for the citizens of Austin. It's our job for Austin Energy to remain the umbrella for the citizens of Austin and not under another appointed governance.

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

I would take a step forward with researching and implementing new innovative resources of energy, e.g. sunlight, and wind. To have efficient wind energy we would need to be closer to the gulf coast or in west Texas. I would also consider looking at geothermal energy. Let's take a look at what other cities within the U.S. are doing as with other countries regarding energy needs, new innovations, consumption, and production.

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

All citizens within Austin should be aware and have the opportunity to sign on with the energy efficiency programs that Austin Energy provides. The programs should include lowering the monthly energy cost to the citizen.

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 would have to seek and research all information regarding investing in more nuclear reactors.