

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?**

Fighting the people who are trying to shut down the Fayette and Decker power plants. The other thing is seeing if we can get out of East Texas Biomass Plant.

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

I would like to see the infrastructure maintained and upgraded. I would like to see improvements to the air quality at the Austin's power plants.

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

I believe what most scientist believe that climate change is constantly changing. If you are talking about man made climate change, citizens have less affect than nature has on climate change in Austin.

- 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 some of the recommendations in both documents. I don't support the one side of the report that believes in climate change. The planet has always had climate change. The goal of the City is to provide the citizens with the cleanest and cheapest energy possible. The report does not look at the possibility of new technologies for coal and gas to reduce the environmental impact. Next, the City runs the chance of Austin meeting their reductions and then EPA could set the bar at a level where it would be difficult to achieve the goal for Austin. This would penalize the city. City of Austin needs to learn how to play the game and not be the leader.

- 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?**

My role as a council member as the policy arm for the utility board. Setting the goals for the electrical system for the city.

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

My goal is to look at everything and determine what is cost effective. I think at some point Austin will be using wave energy from the Gulf. I suspect the city will be using solar, nuclear, and coal and gas – whatever is the most economical and reliable for the city.

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

Austin needs to set up a system that encourages everyone to be energy efficient in their homes. We need rebates and encourage people to conserve; however, we need to ensure we can continue to pay for the cost of doing business.

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 am for nuclear energy. Nuclear energy can be safe and clean as long as it is effective. There is new technology that is being developed that will decay the nuclear waste so that the high cost of eliminating the nuclear waste goes away.