

# **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:** Roberto Perez Jr.  
**District:** 4  
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**Phone:** 512-888-2386

- 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?**

Two challenges will be important to the citizens in regard to Austin Energy. One is to keep the rate increases at no more than 2% per year. The second is whether the Council will continue to oversee the operation of the utility.

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

Austin Energy should be focused on delivering reliable power at a reasonable price compared to other providers in Texas.

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

Climate change is occurring throughout the planet.

- 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 have no opinion at this time but if elected to the Council, I would study the issues in depth with the help of City staff and other stakeholders. I would work with other City Council members and the Mayor to develop sustainable strategies.

**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?**

Roberto Perez Jr.: I would provide oversight and policy recommendations on utility matters including: the mission, scope, and responsibilities of relevant advisory committees; strategic and generation plans; major capital purchases or transactions; rates, annual budgets, the general fund transfer and any other utility transfers; financial policies and the financial status of the utility; the sale and/or lease of utility property; Austin Energy programs for low-income customers; energy efficiency and solar programs; customer protection; fuel hedging and related financial strategies; key accounts and special tariffs; and competitive matters.

Austin Energy is directly connected to the operation of the City through the electric rates it charges to its customers and the revenue that it provides to the City operation. Control should remain with the City Council, which is directly accountable to the citizens.

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

Any resources that are cost effective and escalate the use of renewables, increase energy efficiency, and load shifting. This will reduce our current and future reliance on fossil fuel generation.

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

Continue to design and implement programs that target and reach residential energy efficiency opportunities in residential and rental living spaces.

**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 no opinion at this time but if elected to the Council, I would study the issues in depth with the help of City staff and other stakeholders. I would work with other City Council members and the Mayor to develop sustainable strategies.