

# 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:** Dan Buda

**District:** 5

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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?**

Austin Energy is the nation's eighth largest publicly owned electric utility serving over 400,000 customers. As a council member, my goal will be to provide stronger oversight of Austin Energy including a review of electric rates and transition to power generation from renewable energy.

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

I believe that the 10-1 council of governance will provide stronger oversight of Austin Energy than ever before. I want to see a better use of taxpayer money and review of management, salaries, and electric utility rates.

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

I believe that climate change is an ongoing threat to our environment and will work to reduce the city's carbon footprint and emissions.

- 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. Currently, I have no specific changes to make but would create an environmental justice liaison for my district office staff.

- 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 will be a strong advocate for green energy and consumer advocate with regard to utility rates.

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

The city must increase its use of renewable resources and create diversified energy generation to lessen the reliance on nuclear and coal power plants.

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

Affordability is a major issue for all Austinites. Austin Energy's energy efficiency programs must be expanded to reduce monthly electric bills and retire power draining appliances.

**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 like to see Austin end its reliance on nuclear power even if relicensed. We must work to transition the city towards reliable renewable energy sources.