

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?

I believe that Austin Energy needs to help and improve affordability in Austin. This will mean looking deep into Austin Energy's profits and finding savings within those profits that can be redistributed to the consumer via savings on price per kilowatt. Austin Energy must help get affordability under control.

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

I want to look at Austin Energy like a business and see where we can cut back on using profits for savings that can be applied to Austin's residents. Some Austinites are effectively paying taxes twice via these profits being used for streetlights, social programs, medical testing, etc.

3. What is your position on climate change?

I do believe in climate change. More so than that I believe in peoples ability to destroy local environments. Over use of water, improper disposal of waste, irresponsible business practices can all destroy a cities local environment as well. With the rapid climate change we are experiencing it is imperative that the Austin City Council take steps to protect the local environment.

- 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 Austin's goal of improving energy efficiency, particularly in underserved communities. I support Austin's attempt to meet a firm goal of 200 megawatts of local solar in Austin by 2020. Providing incentives, assistance, and tax breaks to citizens to improve their home or businesses energy efficiency and to install renewable energy (wind or solar) in their home or business. I do not support Austin Energy's plan to buy 100% of one of the Fayette Power plants particularly if they are only buying it to close it down. I would want to see evidence this would not cut into Austin Energy's profits and thus the Affordability savings that those profits could be utilized for. As the oversight committee for Austin Energy I would support phasing out these plants over time similar to phasing in renewable energy by 2020.

- 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 would be to ensure that the use of Austin Energy profits would benefit citizens in the form of savings in price per kilowatt as well as to fund programs that will increase affordability in Austin.

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

Wind and solar programs for small businesses and apartments as well as providing resources to underserved communities to help improve energy efficiency. Providing tax breaks or rebates on wind and solar could encourage new businesses and big complexes to incorporate renewable energy into their buildings without driving up costs for the business.

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

If these programs are pushed through tax breaks and incentives I support them. Requiring a business or homeowner to pay for the installation of renewable energy or energy efficient upgrades could cause a massive spike in cost of living for Austin residents. If done properly they would become popular and beneficial to the consumer and result in bigger participation.

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?

As a fan of renewable energy I do believe Austin should take steps to move in that direction. Such as the Austin Energy Resource, Generation and Climate Protection Plan for 2020. However we must bridge the gap in a way that works for Austin and does not increase affordability. A 20-year renewal would provide ample energy and time to bridge that gap, meet our long-term goals for renewable energy and eventually get off nuclear, fossil fuels and become dependant on renewable energy.