

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: Erin McGann

District: 9

Address: 2304 S. 3rd St, Austin, TX 78704

Email: erin4district9@gmail.com

Phone: 512-470-9156

- 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 think it is important that we encourage the incorporation of alternative energy sources – solar, wind, natural gas – in addition to existing power sources. We should provide incentives through rebates to facilitate the adaptation of these readily available resources.

- 2. From a citywide and district perspective, briefly describe your vision for managing and improving Austin Energy?** An outside audit must be implemented.

Austin Energy must become more customer service oriented and there must be a way to work with people who are substantially behind on their bills.

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

With a 97% consensus on human-caused global warming in scientific peer-reviewed literature, I think it is disingenuous – if not reckless – to continue to continue to suggest otherwise.

- 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 the recommendations developed in the report. We need to work more with those that cannot afford their bills, in a holistic way. We cannot only address overdue AE bills, but must look at all the difficulties people have paying for living in Austin. More than half of Austin Energy's residential customers are defined as low-income or low- moderate income households.

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 City Council member will be to represent the people of Austin, and to make sure that their concerns are listened to. Naturally, there isn't always a consensus from one district to another, or even within my district. But I think it is important that the interests of Austinites are taken into consideration, especially when they are directly affected by the governance of Austin Energy.

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

Where it is economically feasible, I think it's important to incorporate wind and solar energy into existing coal and natural gas resources.

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

When it comes to increasing efficiency, I think most people would be interested in taking the appropriate measures, but they may not be informed about how to go about incorporating such changes. The cost of initiating the appropriate changes can also be discouraging. It's important to educate homeowners about available options, as well as provide them an incentive through rebates or other programs.

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?

While nuclear energy may be appealing in that it is a relatively inexpensive and clean energy, the risks far outweigh the benefits. We cannot risk the potentially devastating effects of an accident. The other major detriment is the disposal of the waste material. We ultimately need to work towards weaning ourselves off nuclear energy.