

Open Austin Candidate Questionnaire

2014 City of Austin Municipal Election

Instructions: Please answer the nine questions below.

Point of contact for this questionnaire is Chip Rosenthal, info@open-austin.org

We would appreciate your response by Friday, September 19, 2014.

We will post your answers and publicize your participation [here](#).

You can view our questionnaires and candidate responses from previous elections [here](#).

New in 2014: Our *Open Government Briefing Guide* provides information about issues raised in this questionnaire. It's available for download [here](#).

⇒ Candidate Name: _____

⇒ Office Sought: _____

Open Data

Many of these issues, such as the Open Data Portal and Open Government Resolution, are discussed in our Open Government Briefing Guide.

⇒ 1. How will you encourage City departments to comply with the Open Government Resolution and place useful data on the open data portal [data.austintexas.gov] on a timely basis?

⇒ 2. How would you evaluate departments' compliance with the Open Government Resolution? Would you support a resolution to create a quarterly report card?

⇒ 3. Would you support a resolution to require that any software or software services purchased by the City must be accompanied by an open data plan that indicates how public data managed by that system will be made available to the public?

Innovation Office

⇒ 4. This past March, the City hired its first Chief Innovation Officer. What are the specific functions and initiatives you would like to see out of this office to advance the City's open government and open data efforts?

Website and Online Services

⇒ 5. What steps would you take to help ensure the City of Austin website [www.austintexas.gov] provides the tools and information that citizens and community groups want?

⇒ 6. Would you support action to create an online issue feedback/reporting system, where a citizen could report an issue with the City's website and other online properties, and track city response to that issue?

⇒ 7. There are strong benefits to providing city information and services online. Many residents, however, experience barriers to access. (See discussion of "Digital Inclusion" in our *Open Government Briefing Guide*.) What do you see as the City's responsibility regarding digital inclusion, and what steps would you take to address these concerns?

Open Data Exercise: Campaign Finance Filings

The City of Austin currently posts candidate and office holder financial statements as scanned facsimiles (PDF format) of the filed, attested documents. In 2012, the City Council approved a resolution to post these filings in a searchable, digital form.

⇒ 8. What would you do to ensure this project is completed before the next municipal election?

⇒ 9. Will you publicly post your campaign receipts and expenditures (as reported to the City on form C/OH) online, in CSV spreadsheet data format, within 30 days of filing a report with the Austin City Clerk? Where will you post it?

As you evaluate your response to question #9, keep in mind that the information we are asking for is public and already on the web – but in a way that's hard to use. We're asking you to provide it in a good, open data format. The 30-day window has been provided to mitigate competitive disadvantage from participating in this request.

If you use the state TEC software to prepare your filings, you can use the "export" command to generate a CSV-format spreadsheet file with this information. You can post the files yourself, or you may email them to us at info@open-austin.org and we'll post them on our data portal, <http://data.open-austin.org/>.

We hope that as you work through question #9, it provides a first-hand experience of the challenges of publishing open data. All of the issues you'll need to consider – Can I technically do this? What are the impacts of publishing this? – are an integral part of the open data process.