

KUT Public File

Community Issues List
1st Quarter 2024

I. Issues

Energy/Environment
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Voting/Elections
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Transportation and Infrastructure
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Community Interest and Local Issues
Local Government, Management, and Utilities
City Council and City Management
Poverty and Homelessness
Weather and Emergencies

II. Responsive Programming

Energy/Environment

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
1/17/2024	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:51
Twice this week Texans were asked to conserve energy as ERCOT anticipated an upsurge in power demand in the extreme cold. Both days, energy use set new winter records in Texas, but it did not come close to what the grid operator expected. That's raised questions about how the state forecasts grid conditions.			
1/22/2024	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:47
The rain that started up last night is the first of a few rounds over the next couple of days. That could help pull Central Texas further out of drought. Though, it will take more than a few days of rain to undo two years of abnormally dry weather.			
1/29/2024	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:50
More solar energy powered Texas than ever before yesterday, with more than a third of the electricity on the Texas grid coming from the sun. It's a record that's not expected to stand for very long.			
2/22/2024	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:43
The group that runs the reservoirs that provide much of Central Texas with water has enacted new rules to fight the ongoing drought. KUT's Mose Buchele reports the rules will limit lawn watering in some places where it has not been previously restricted.			
2/26/2024	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:52
The Texas power grid set a new record yesterday when more than 70 percent of the energy Texans used came from wind and solar power. And that's not the only record the state energy system broke that day.			

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Health/Healthcare

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
1/3/2024	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:56
If you battled some respiratory symptoms over the holidays, you're not alone. As KUT's Olivia Aldridge reports, there's been an uptick in the spread of several illnesses in recent weeks.			
2/9/2024	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:44
Hays County has taken a first step toward creating a behavioral health program. KUT's Olivia Aldridge tells us about this effort from the local health department.			

Voting/Elections

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
1/4/2024	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:45
Eligible Texans can now submit applications to vote by mail for the rest of the calendar year.			
2/2/2024	Morning Edition	5am-9am	3:50
The deadline to register to vote in the Texas primaries is Monday. So if you've recently moved to town - or just across town - you should check to make sure your registration is up to date. It's also a last chance for brand new voters just turning 18 to participate. KUT's Becky Fogel reports on a group making sure area high school students are ready to head to the polls.			
2/15/2024	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:26
Travis County voters are preparing to head to the polls for the March primaries. After some back-and-forth with Travis County Democrats, the Travis County Republican party has decided to hand-count mail-in ballots. KUT's Luz Moreno-Lozano says the two parties reached an agreement after weeks of debate.			

State Government and Courts

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
1/23/2024	Morning Edition	5am-9am	6:30
Last month, a Texas woman named Kate Cox sued the state for the right to end her complicated pregnancy. In the wake of that case, Texas doctors have said they still don't know the scope of their rights when performing abortions in emergencies. That's why two Austin lawyers have petitioned the Texas Medical Board, to issue clarifying guidance to physicians.			
1/31/2024	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:39
The Texas Supreme Court heard oral arguments Tuesday challenging the state's ban on gender-affirming care for trans minors.			
2/5/2024	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:49
Texas Governor Greg Abbott met with Republican governors from several states Sunday who are backing his decision to bar U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers from access to a small park in Eagle Pass.			

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Education

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
1/10/2024	Morning Edition	5am-9am	1:05
Austin Community College is looking for ways to make higher education more accessible to local students. ACC's chancellor is proposing a pilot program to make tuition free for 2024 high school graduates.			
1/16/2024	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:40
A handful of Central Texas school districts are closed today in response to frigid temperatures. Among them are the Del Valle Independent School District, Hays CISD, Bastrop, Elgin and Wimberley. Many other districts are starting two hours late this morning, including Austin, Leander, Georgetown and Round Rock.			
1/26/2024	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:59
The Austin school board has appointed a new permanent superintendent to lead the district, at a time when it's facing challenges from a budget deficit to a state order to improve special education. As KUT's Becky Fogel reports, trustees say they've found someone they believe can make positive change systemwide.			
2/13/2024	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:57
The largest school district in Central Texas is facing serious challenges while working out a budget for the next school year. Austin ISD is trying to fund a bunch of priorities while facing a multimillion-dollar deficit.			
2/21/2024	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	1:04
The Del Valle ISD school board president abruptly resigned last night. KUT's Becky Fogel reports the president stepped down right before a former trustee officially rejoined the board.			

Housing and Development

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
1/19/2024	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:55
Homes in Austin sold last month, on median, for around half a million dollars. KUT's Audrey McGlinchy reports that's down a bit from this time last year.			
2/8/2024	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:46
Rent prices in the Austin area continue to fall. KUT's Audrey McGlinchy has a look at the numbers and what's behind them.			
2/20/2024	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:39
The median sales price of homes in Central Texas has been falling for the past year and a half. Lately, prices have started dropping the most in some areas outside Austin.			

Labor/Business/Economy

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
1/5/2024	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:51
New federal legislation passed by the Senate seeks to speed up the construction of semiconductor factories in the U.S. KUT's Kailey Hunt reports its co-sponsor, Senator Ted Cruz, visited Williamson County this week to rally support for the legislation as it moves to the House of Representatives.			
1/19/2024	Morning Edition	5am-9am	1:02

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It's been nearly ten months since Williamson County signed its first-ever international business agreement with a South Korean trade agency. And since then, the county has seen lots of interest from Korean companies looking to move to the area.

Criminal Justice/Emergency Services/Public Safety

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
1/18/2024	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:52
The Austin Police Department has a 30-thousand-dollar budget to assist crime victims, including domestic violence, with any immediate needs. It could range from a new pair of eyeglasses to security cameras. KUT's Luz Moreno-Lozano reports the city is trying to expand the resources and budget for this program.			
2/1/2024	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:42
The Austin City Council is prepared to pay new police officers more money. As KUT's Andrew Weber reports, the bonuses come amid record-breaking departures at the Austin Police Department			
2/6/2024	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:50
Austin Police are investigating a stabbing that happened near the UT campus over the weekend as a hate crime.			
2/29/2024	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:41
A wildfire in the Texas Panhandle has grown to more than a million acres, making it the largest in recorded Texas history. Texas Public Radio's Brian Kirkpatrick has advice from the Texas A&M Forest Service on how people can make their properties less vulnerable.			

Transportation and Infrastructure

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
1/8/2024	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:52
New developments in a lawsuit seeking to slam the brakes on Austin's ambitions plan to build a ten-mile light-rail system. KUT's Nathan Bernier reports the city council and Austin Transit Partnership have filed their first formal response to the lawsuit -- and they're not giving an inch.			
2/14/2024	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:59
Three big road projects in the Austin area are getting the go-ahead with more than 100-million dollars in federal funding. They're projects that had been delayed to help pay for the I-35 expansion.			

Diversity, Race, and Gender Issues

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
1/2/2024	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:41
More than two dozen new Texas laws took effect on January First. As KUT's Becky Fogel reports, one of the measures bans Diversity, Equity and Inclusion offices at public universities and colleges.			
1/12/2024	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:43

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A new report says white nationalist groups are putting up more banners and flyers in Texas compared to other parts of the country.

2/22/2024	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:54
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Leaders from Austin’s Black community say the city has not done enough to improve the quality of life for its people. KUT’s Luz Moreno-Lozano reports on a new study out that has its roots in an older effort by the City of Austin to make it a better place for people of color.

Community Interest and Local Issues

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
1/25/2024	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:41
When’s the last time you really saw the stars? More Central Texas cities and towns are adopting environmentally responsible outdoor lighting ordinances. KUT’s Kailey Hunt tells us about the area’s latest Dark Sky Community.			
2/16/2024	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:35
Round Rock High School is hosting a kid-friendly comic convention this Saturday. Students will get the chance to meet comic creators and participate in drawing workshops. The free event runs from 9:30 to 3:30 this Sunday at Round Rock High School.			

Local Government, Management, and Utilities

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
1/22/2024	Morning Edition	5am-9am	1:00
The City of Austin is working on creating “resiliency hubs” – a network of community spaces people can go to in the event of an emergency – like a power outage.			
1/30/2024	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:40
Austin Water officials say over 800,900 gallons of rainwater from Williamson Creek got into Austin Water’s sanitary sewer system and mixed with wastewater last week. Austin Water says this leak did not impact Austin’s drinking water supply. Austin Water encourages people within a half mile of that site who use private well water to use only distilled or boiled water till they can get their water tested.			
2/13/2024	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:43
Austin is still searching for a new city manager. As part of the hiring process, city officials are asking residents to share their input.			

Poverty and Homelessness

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
1/15/2024	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:57
Many Austinites experiencing homelessness won't be able to find shelter during this week’s freezing temperatures. KUT’s Andrew Weber has more on efforts to help.			
2/7/2024	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	1:04

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Nearly 200 people who've lived on the streets of Austin will soon move into new apartments

2/27/2024	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:41
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Austin officials are trying once again to build affordable housing on city owned land downtown. The city has been working to develop the former Health South hospital for several years, but scrapped an earlier plan when the former developer could no longer meet the project's goals.

Weather and Emergencies

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
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1/9/2024	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:45
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A wind advisory remains in effect in Central Texas until noon today. The winds could cause power outages as tree limbs fall on power lines. Austin Energy is reporting outages this morning affecting a few hundred customers. But outages are only part of the threat posed by this kind of weather.

1/11/2024	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:57
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With sub-freezing temperatures expected to hit the Austin area as soon as this weekend, local authorities are advising people to be ready. KUT's Luz Moreno-Lozano was at City Hall today for the latest update on winter preparedness from city and county officials.
