

KUT Issues and Programs List

3rd Quarter 2020

I. Issues

Energy/Environment
Health/Healthcare
Voting/Elections
Politics/Legislation/Courts
Education
Housing and Development
Employment/Business/Economy
Criminal Justice/Emergency Services/Public Safety
Transportation
Diversity and Gender Issues
Community and Local Issues
City Council and City Management
Poverty and Homelessness
US Census

II. Responsive Programing

Energy/Environment

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
7/20/20	Morning Edition	6am-10am	1:00
The saga of the dunes sagebrush lizard continues. For years conservationists and oil and gas interests have battled over the fate of the small West Texas lizard. In a recent development, the US Fish and Wildlife Service agreed to consider listing the species as <i>endangered</i> . But, as KUT's Mose Buchele reports, there's still a long way to go before that might happen.			
7/24/20	Morning Edition	6am-10am	1:00
Earlier this year, the state agency that regulates oil and gas in Texas – the railroad commission- loosened environmental rules on industry. At the time, commissioners said it would help oil and gas companies struggling with a massive oil bust. But now, as KUT's Mose Buchele reports, the agency is being sued by landowners who worry what the rollback will mean for the environment.			
8/31/20	Morning Edition	6am-10am	1:06
The city of Austin gets all its water from the Highland Lakes – but that might not always be the case. Austin recently took a first step towards storing massive amounts of water <i>underground</i> . As KUT's Mose Buchele reports, if the project works it could help the city survive – as climate change makes Texas drier and hotter.			
9/1/20	All Things Considered	3:30pm-6:30pm	:54
We've made it through August. And it was another scorching hot one. So how does it stack up against other years? KUT's Mose Buchele has the details.			
9/4/20	All Things Considered	3:30pm-6:30pm	:42
The City of Austin announced about five years ago a goal to stop adding greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere by mid-century. And now, a group tasked with making that transition equitable, says it should happen even faster.			

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9/25/20	Morning Edition	6am-10am	1:02
The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas is out with its new “Energy Survey.” It’s a quarterly snapshot of how oil and gas executives feel about the state of the industry. As KUT’s Mose Buchele reports, the responses this time show an industry grappling with the long-term effects of this year’s oil bust.			

Health/Healthcare

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
7/1/20	All Things Considered	3:30pm-6:30pm	:48
Texas again set a new record for coronavirus infections today. The one day total is more than 8-thousand. That’s one thousand more than yesterday’s record. The growing number has public health officials in Austin asking people to celebrate the Fourth of July at home.			
7/7/20	All Things Considered	3:30pm-6:30pm	:60
Here in Austin, the city’s top doctor is seeing a slight drop in the daily number of COVID-19 cases. And he says it could be the result of more people using facial coverings. But as KUT's Andrew Weber reports, the Austin area still faces a backlog of test results AND a shortage of technicians to perform coronavirus tests.			
8/4/20	All Things Considered	3:30pm-6:30pm	:51
The city of Austin's top doctor says he's worried people may be backsliding when it comes to COVID-19 precautions.			
8/25/20	All Things Considered	3:30pm-6:30pm	1:00
As new COVID-19 cases plateau, Austin health officials say they're comfortable with loosening some restrictions related to the virus. But as KUT's Andrew Weber reports, those officials told the Austin City Council today that they're still wary as schools and universities reopen to in-person classes.			
9/2/20	All Things Considered	3:30pm-6:30pm	:53
Austin Public Health along with other local health agencies will be distributing free PPE in areas considered COVID-19 hotspots to help curb the spread of the virus.			
9/8/20	Morning Edition	6am-10am	:53
The Texas Medical Association – along with more than thirty organizations – is urging Governor Greg Abbott to create a plan to expand health care insurance coverage to more Texans. KUT’s Ashley Lopez reports, the state’s already high uninsured rate has been climbing during the pandemic.			
9/23/20	Morning Edition	6am-10am	1:03
Travis County commissioners heard their weekly COVID-19 update from Austin Public Health today. And while many of the virus numbers Interim Health Authority Doctor Mark Escott cited could be of concern, as KUT’s Jimmy Maas reports, it was another figure that jumped out for one commissioner.			

Voting/Elections

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
7/9/20	Morning Edition	6am-10am	1:57
Texas Democrat Lloyd Doggett is running for his 14th term in Congress this year. There are two Republicans vying to challenge him in November for the district that includes parts of Guadalupe, Travis, Hays, Caldwell, Comal and Bexar counties. KUT’s Riane Roldan reports on this March primary runoff race.			
7/31/20	Morning Edition	6am-10am	:56

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The League of Women Voters found that many county election websites are missing important information ahead of the election. KUT's Ashley Lopez reports that more than 70 percent of the state's 254 counties were missing key information specific to voting during a pandemic.

8/3/20	Morning Edition	6am-10am	5:19
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In-person voting will likely still be the main way Texans cast their ballots during the upcoming presidential election. Texas is one of a very few states that has decided not to expand absentee or mail-in voting during the coronavirus pandemic. So, local election officials are now scrambling to find polling sites that are willing to host in-person voting. And as KUT's Ashley Lopez reports that means officials are getting creative about where to put polling sites.

8/26/20	Morning Edition	6am-10am	:38
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Hays County Commissioners voted Tuesday 3 to 2 against an additional election day polling location at Texas State University.

9/3/20	All Things Considered	3:30pm-6:30pm	:48
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The ACLU of Texas says many counties may be violating the Voting Rights Act by failing to provide voting and election information in accurate Spanish. KUT's Ashley Lopez reports almost 70 Texas counties had inadequate or inaccessible Spanish-language information.

9/21/20	Morning Edition	6am-10am	:32
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There are five Austin City Council seats up for grab in November. These include Districts 2, 4, 6, 7 and 10. To help residents get to know these candidates, KUT is hosting forums where reporters and the audience will get a chance to ask the candidates questions. KUT's Audrey McGlinchy has more on the District 2 forum tonight.

Politics/Legislation/Courts

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
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8/19/20	Morning Edition	6am-10am	:49
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Texas Governor Greg Abbott and other state leaders want to stop cities like Austin from cutting police funding.

Education

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
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7/6/20	Morning Edition	6am-10am	:41
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The Austin Independent School District is still finalizing plans for how to resume classes in August while there's a pandemic going on. KUT's Claire McNerny reports, the district wants to hear more from parents.

7/22/20	All Things Considered	3:30pm-6:30pm	:21
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The Austin school district is trying to help parents understand what their kids should expect when classes resume next month. KUT's Claire McNerny joined a virtual information session today explaining online learning, and she says a lot of the information was still pretty high-level.

8/11/20	All Things Considered	3:30pm-6:30pm	:38
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The Austin Independent School District may have a new superintendent after a school board meeting tonight. KUT's Claire McNerny reports the board will vote on whether to hire the only finalist being considered.

8/20/20	Morning Edition	6am-10am	:31
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The Austin Independent School District wants to make sure every family has what it needs before virtual learning starts September 8. KUT's Claire McNerny reports one way they are preparing is with phone calls.

Housing and Development

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
7/14/20	All Things Considered	3:30pm-6:30pm	:42
People in the Austin-area resumed buying and selling homes at a near-record pace last month. But as KUT's Nathan Bernier tells us, most of the growth was in the counties that surround Austin.			
8/18/20	Morning Edition	6am-10am	:59
Austin renters affected financially by the COVID-19 pandemic can start applying for help from the city Wednesday morning.			
9/9/20	Morning Edition	6am-10am	:48
The City of Austin has unveiled a new mapping tool that shows where affordable housing is, in relation to current and proposed public transit lines. KUT's Samuel King reports, the tool was many years in the making.			
9/14/20	All Things Considered	3:30pm-6:30pm	:53
A new study finds that a Texas law creating property tax exemptions for some rental properties has led to big tax breaks and little affordable housing.			
9/18/20	All Things Considered	3:30pm-6:30pm	:54
The Texas Supreme Court is requiring that courts overseeing evictions educate renters about a national eviction ban.			
9/24/20	Morning Edition	6am-10am	:34
Austin's Code Department has started suspending some landlords' ability to rent to new tenants. It's part of a program for allegedly negligent landlords.			

Employment/Business/Economy

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
7/8/20	All Things Considered	6am-10am	:40
As many as 90 percent of Austin's music venues could close by the fall, according to a survey conducted by the University of Houston's Hobby School of Public Affairs.			
7/10/20	Morning Edition	6am-10am	:57
Del Valle I-S-D's Board of Trustees agreed to a property tax abatement with Tesla last night. As KUT's Jimmy Maas reports, board members decided that even with the big tax break, the rewards for the school district and that part of the county were too great to pass up.			
9/17/20	All Things Considered	6am-10am	:57
The Austin City Council is debating how best to help music venues in danger of shutting down during the coronavirus pandemic. As KUT's Andrew Weber reports, a framework to give city money to ailing venues is up for a vote today at City Hall.			

Criminal Justice/Emergency Services/Public Safety

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Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
7/2/20	All Things Considered	3:30pm-6:30pm	1:02
The Austin Police Department will stop ticketing and arresting people for small amounts of marijuana.			
7/16/20	Morning Edition	6am-10am	:43
The Austin Police Department says it will delay releasing body camera footage from officers who seriously injured protestors in May.			
7/27/20	Morning Edition	6am-10am	:54
Austin Police have released two people who fired shots in an incident in which a Black Lives Matter protestor was shot and killed Saturday night.			
9/10/20	Morning Edition	6am-10am	:45
Austin City Council voted last month to cut the police budget by at least 100 million dollars, it also asked staff to look into demolishing police headquarters. KUT's Audrey McGlinchy reports on the initial discussions around moving APD's main office.			
9/28/20	All Things Considered	3:30pm-6:30pm	1:00
Williamson County Sheriff Robert Chody is facing a grand jury indictment alleging he tampered with the video recording of the arrest of a Black man who died after being repeatedly tased by deputies.			

Transportation

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
7/23/20	All Things Considered	3:30pm-6:30pm	:51
An unused rail line to Austin-Bergstrom International Airport could become a new hike and bike trail and even host a transit line in the future. KUT's Samuel King reports CAMPO and the City of Austin are gathering input on what should happen with the Bergstrom Spur.			
8/14/20	Morning Edition	6am-10am	:53
The Austin City Council has voted to place two transportation- related ballot measures in front of voters in November. One calls for a bond issue for sidewalk, bikeways and other infrastructure improvements. KUT's Samuel King reports, the other would raise taxes to pay for new transit lines.			
8/27/20	All Things Considered	3:30pm-6:30pm	:48
The Texas Transportation Commission has approved the last piece of funding to rebuild I-35 in Central Austin. That work could include putting a portion of the highway underground. KUT's Samuel King reports the project is still several years from starting.			

Diversity, Race, and Gender Issues

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
7/3/20	Morning Edition	6am-10am	:53
One of the country's biggest Hispanic organizations is asking Governor Greg Abbott to address the disproportionate effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on Texas Latinos. KUT's Ashley Lopez reports, the League of United Latin American Citizens — or LULAC- wants Abbott to call a special legislative session to help hard-hit communities.			

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7/15/20	All Things Considered	3:30pm-6:30pm	:56
Local lawmakers are looking to head off future attempts at legislation like the so-called "Bathroom Bill" that target members of the L-G-B-T-Q community. KUT's Jimmy Maas reports they're building a bipartisan effort based on economics.			
7/17/20	All Things Considered	3:30pm-6:30pm	:45
Black chiefs of staff for state lawmakers are calling for the removal of Confederate monuments on the capital grounds along with new laws to change policing in Texas.			
7/29/20	All Things Considered	3:30pm-6:30pm	:55
The Austin City Council today passed a resolution declaring racism a public health crisis.			
8/12/20	Morning Edition	6am-10am	7:55
Joseph Frilot teaches 6th grade World Cultures and 7th grade Texas history at IDEA Montopolis College Prep charter school. He's also an academic coach for Upward Bound – a program at Austin Community College that helps lower income students get ready for college. Frilot describes himself an introvert. So he couldn't really see himself participating in an "Educators March for Justice" when the idea came up this summer. But then Frilot thought of his students. He wanted to show them that change is about more than words – it's actions, too. So, bullhorn in hand, he led protesters in that downtown Austin march. We talked recently by phone about his further ideas for putting anti-racism front and center in education.			
9/15/20	All Things Considered	3:30pm-6:30pm	:48
The Austin Independent School District's new superintendent wants to address how AISD disciplines students of color. KUT's Claire McNerny tells us about the discussion at last night's school board meeting.			

Community Interest and Local Issues

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
7/20/20	All Things Considered	3:30pm-6:30pm	:34
Testing shows blue-green algae found in Austin's Lady Bird Lake is toxic. KUT's Trey Shaar tells us it's the same kind of algae blamed for the deaths of at least five dogs last summer.			
7/30/20	All Things Considered	3:30pm-6:30pm	:18
More mosquito pools in Travis County have tested positive for West Nile Virus.			
8/7/20	Morning Edition	6am-10am	7:13
The pandemic has already shuttered some Austin landmarks: from music clubs to countless restaurants in the city. It's also made it more difficult to safely experience community- to connect with old acquaintances and lifelong family friends. Now, as KUT's Jerry Quijano reports, the Austin Country Flea Market - where so many of those things come together - could be the next to fall.			
8/10/20	Morning Edition	6am-10am	6:26
In many ways, funeral home employees could be considered front-line workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. That's what one owner of a funeral home in Austin believes. There, people have been working seven days a week to help families bury those killed by the virus. And then, the funeral home lost one of its own. KUT's Audrey McGlinchy reports. (6:26)			
9/11/20	Morning Edition	6am-10am	:52
The University of Texas will play its opening football game of the season Saturday. While the team hopes to make a run at a Big 12 title, KUT's Jimmy Maas reports, there will be a bigger test off the field for the university as it hosts the first mass gathering in Austin since March.			
9/16/20	All Things Considered	3:30pm-6:30pm	:55

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Austin's music community rallied at City Hall today to support a measure from City Council that would bolster the ecosystem around live music in light of the pandemic.

City Council, City Management

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
7/13/20	Morning Edition	6am-10am	1:03
Austin City Council members will get a first look at a new proposed budget today (Monday). Typically, the process is pretty dry. Over several weeks, the council tweaks the budget before voting on it in September. But as KUT's Audrey McGlinchy reports, this year will be different. Council members and the public have asked for cuts to the police budget.			
7/28/20	All Things Considered	3:30pm-6:30pm	:50
A number of Austin city council members have laid out specific ideas for how to reduce the police department budget by tens of millions of dollars.			
8/5/20	All Things Considered	3:30pm-6:30pm	:45
Austin Mayor Steve Adler will deliver his annual State of the City Address tonight. KUT's Audrey McGlinchy has a preview.			
8/13/20	All Things Considered	3:30pm-6:30pm	:36
Tonight on the Cedar Park City Council's agenda is the discussion — and possible action — on a citizen petition to recall council member Tim Kelly. It's the second time in recent weeks that Kelly has been under scrutiny.			

Poverty and Homelessness

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
7/21/20	Morning Edition	6am-10am	:49
A GOP-backed group says it's collected enough signatures to put a rollback of the City of Austin's homelessness ordinances on the ballot in November.			
8/21/20	All Things Considered	3:30pm-6:30pm	:48
The City of Austin says it's opening up storage space for people experiencing homelessness.			
9/7/20	Morning Edition	6am-10am	:52
A study out today suggests more households in Austin are struggling to make ends meet.			

US Census

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
8/17/20	Morning Edition	6am-10am	:54
With just a few weeks left of the Census, San Marcos is falling behind in responding to the national headcount that happens every ten years. KUT's Ashley Lopez reports that low response rates can negatively affect federal funding and political representation for a community.			
8/24/20	All Things Considered	3:30pm-6:30pm	:46

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The Census Bureau and outreach groups in Austin are trying to get more people to respond to the census. And today, that meant a number of organizations in North Austin filling residents' cars with Census and voting information, food --- and for the first time -- books.

9/22/20

Morning Edition

6am-10am

:57

Austin area officials are emphasizing the importance of participating in the U.S. Census ahead of the deadline for responses at the end of the month. As KUT's Andrew Weber reports, the Austin-area response rate overall is on par with the national average, but some parts are seeing much lower rates of response.
