

# KUT Public File

Community Issues List  
2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2023

## I. Issues

Energy/Environment  
Health/Healthcare  
Voting/Elections  
Education  
Housing and Development  
Labor/Business/Economy  
Criminal Justice/Emergency Services/Public Safety  
Transportation and Infrastructure  
Diversity, Race, and Gender Issues  
Local Government, Management, and Utilities  
City Council and City Management  
Poverty and Homelessness

## II. Responsive Programming

Energy/Environment

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
4/7/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:36
The Texas State Senate has approved a plan to put ten billion dollars of public money towards building natural gas power plants. As KUT's Mose Buchele reports, the legislation is one of a package of proposals out of the state senate that would raise energy rates and cap renewable energy growth in Texas.			
4/25/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:45
Travis County has seen some improvement in its energy efficiency and the amount of pollution it's putting into the air. KUT's Haya Panjwani reports it's a result of fewer people having to leave home for work.			
5/4/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:37
The Public Utility Commission of Texas has released its assessment of the power grid going into the summer. Regulators say that, under some scenarios, there won't be sufficient "on demand power" to meet all energy needs.			
5/18/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:40
Travis County Commissioners are meeting once again this afternoon. There's only three items for discussion and all of them are environment related. First, commissioners will receive a presentation on climate change, greenhouse gas emissions and ongoing efforts from the Environmental Quality team. Next, they'll be briefed on the Travis County Stormwater Program, and what's being done to protect water quality and waterways in the county. Finally, they'll wrap the afternoon with a briefing on the Travis County Tree Conservation Program. They'll consider creating a new formula for calculating the value of any tree proposed for removal.			
6/30/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:48
The heat dome that's been over Texas has moved east, giving us a slight break from extreme temps. But the intensity of these early-season temperatures could still influence the weather here for the rest of the summer -- and not in a good way.			

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## Health/Healthcare

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
4/6/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:56
An abortion provider that closed locations in Austin, Fort Worth and other Texas cities last year has opened a clinic in New Mexico. And, they're spreading word to the communities they used to serve in Texas.			
4/26/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:55
Travis County has been seeing alarming increases in the numbers of drug-related deaths. KUT's Olivia Aldridge has details from a report out today from the county's medical examiner.			
5/15/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:40
All doctors staffing Dell Children's adolescent medicine clinic are leaving - after Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton announced an investigation into gender-affirming care procedures there. The shakeup comes as the Texas House of Representatives has moved forward on Senate Bill 14 - that would outlaw gender-affirming care for minors. The bill has one House procedural vote left. It's already been approved by the state Senate.			
5/26/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	1:02
The CDC released new data this week showing a decrease in new HIV infections.			
6/12/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:56
A new clinic opening in South Austin aims to serve Hispanic seniors and their families.			
6/29/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:49
Austin Public Health found this week its first mosquito pool that's positive for West Nile virus. KUT's Haya Panjwani has a look at what we should know about the virus and mosquitos this summer.			

## Voting/Elections

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
4/24/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:46
It's the first day of early voting across Central Texas. KUT's Haya Panjwani spoke with the Travis County Clerk about these elections. (:46)			
4/25/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:30
Early voting continues in the May 6th election. School board races, school propositions, some mayoral elections and citywide propositions are on the ballot in Travis, Hays and Williamson counties. Less than one percent of registered voters in Travis County cast their ballot yesterday. There's more information on what's on your ballot at KUT dot org.			
5/3/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:30
The final early voting numbers in the May sixth election are in. Just under seven percent of registered voters in Travis County voted early. It was about the same for Williamson County, with six-point-three percent early voter turnout. And a four-point-three percent early voter turnout in Hays County. You still have time to vote in this election if you haven't already. Election Day is this Saturday.			

## Legislature

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
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4/11/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:55	An Austin state Democratic lawmaker is behind a bill seeking to address food insecurity on college campuses in Texas. State Representative John Bucy's legislation would require the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to create a hunger-free campus program. The bill was left pending in committee.
4/19/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:59	Lawmakers in the Texas House have approved a bill that could undo scores of local laws like protections for hiring and labor standards. And KUT's Andrew Weber reports even its author admits it's unclear how far the bill could reach.
4/27/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:59	Austin voters are deciding between two propositions that would change the way the city handles complaints against police. But as KUT's Andrew Weber reports, a bill at the Texas Legislature could overrule the will of Austin voters.
6/15/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:49	Governor Greg Abbott today signed another bill targeting transgender Texans. KUT's Becky Fogel reports the new law requires college athletes to play on teams that correspond with their sex assigned at birth.

## Education

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration	
4/3/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	6:00	State education officials want to appoint a management team to help address problems plaguing the Austin Independent School District's special education department. The Texas Education Agency released a report this past Friday that found AISD has repeatedly failed to provide services to students with disabilities that are required by state and federal law.
5/2/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	3:51	Central Texas school districts are urging state lawmakers to increase state funding for public education. KUT's Becky Fogel reports, the call to action comes with less than a month left in the current legislative session.
5/8/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:35	Travis County voters passed propositions in two school districts, bringing millions of dollars in funding to Central Texas. In Eanes Independent School District, voters approved 118 million dollars to improve school buildings, 2-point-4 million dollars to improve the district's stadium, and 11-point-2 million dollars to update the district's I-T equipment. In Leander Independent School District, which is also in parts of Williamson County, voters approved almost 700 million dollars for repurposing and buying school resources, over 50 million dollars for school tech upgrades and 13 million dollars for renovations to its performing arts center.
5/29/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:59	Public education advocates say Texas school districts could have some tough choices ahead. As KUT's Becky Fogel reports, that's because the 88th legislative session is ending without any increase to per student funding or teacher raises.
6/20/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:41	There's a new effort in Central Texas to get more teachers after so many left the profession in recent years. KUT's Kailey Hunt reports Round Rock I-S-D, Austin Community College and Texas State have created a teacher preparation partnership.

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## Housing and Development

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
4/5/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:35
The cost of renting a place to live in the Austin area is still rising, but at a slower rate.			
4/25/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:49
A group of homeowners is suing the City of Austin over its plan to use more than 300 million dollars in property taxes along the shores of Lady Bird Lake.			
4/28/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:50
A bill that would make it easier to construct taller buildings near single-family homes in Austin is making its way through the state legislature.			
5/15/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:42
If you live in Williamson County, chances are you've received your latest property appraisal. KUT's Kailey Hunt reports on what has changed and how you can learn more about the state of the county's housing market.			
6/7/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:45
A development that would stretch from San Marcos to Maxwell is causing concern among people living nearby. KUT's Maya Fawaz has the latest on more than two-thousand acres of land that developers want to turn into an industrial park.			
6/13/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:55
Home-building company, Lennar, is working with ICON, an Austin-based construction technology company, to create what they say is the world's largest community of 3-D printed homes. Six of them are now on the market and KUT's Kailey Hunt has one local realtor's reaction.			
6/20/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:47
Home sale prices in the Austin-Round Rock area were down 15% in May compared to the same time last year.			

## Labor/Business/Economy

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
4/6/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:57
Hospitals across Texas have struggled to hire and retain enough nurses since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic. This morning, nurses demonstrated outside Austin's Ascension Seton Medical Center, drawing attention to issues they say are pushing their colleagues out of the workforce.			
5/2/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:45
Williamson County's new international economic agreement with South Korea is expected to bring dozens — if not hundreds — of new companies to the area. The companies are expected to support Korean-based Samsung's new semiconductor factory in Taylor. Construction on the factory is expected to finish next year.			
5/16/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:55
City of Austin employees are pushing back against a new proposed work from-home policy. Interim City Manager Jesus Garza unveiled a plan to scale back remote work last week. It would require employees to be in city offices at least three days a week. More senior staff would need to be in the office 5 days a week.			
6/5/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:48

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Some staff at the Austin American-Statesman went on strike today. KUT's Haya Panjwani went to the picket line, where reporters and others are asking for a better contract and better pay.

6/28/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:51
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A day after going on strike, nurses went back to Ascension Seton Medical Center this morning, and were turned away by security.

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## Criminal Justice/Emergency Services/Public Safety

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
4/10/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:30
State police have been patrolling Austin's streets since late last month. As KUT's Andrew Weber reports, the deal between the Department of Public Safety and Austin police was met with controversy and concern. This week, city leaders are getting an update on the plan.			
4/14/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:46
A Travis County judge has unsealed court documents in the case of Daniel Perry. KUT's Haya Panjwani reports the documents reveal racist and anti-protestor statements from Perry before he shot protestor Garret Foster in Downtown Austin in the summer of 2020.			
4/28/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:58
Austin Firefighters have been working overtime far more than other city employees. KUT's Haya Panjwani reports on a recent audit that found just how much overtime these firefighters are putting in.			
5/8/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:32
Austin voters overwhelmingly approved an expansion of police oversight in Saturday's election, with Proposition A passing by a 4-to-1 margin. KUT's Andrew Weber tells us how the vote will affect ongoing negotiations for a new labor contract with the Austin Police union.			
5/9/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:45
Texas lawmakers are considering a bill that would create new rules for pet boarding facilities. Pet owners would have to be notified if their animals were left alone in a facility without fire protection. It was left pending in a Senate committee yesterday.			
6/22/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:45
It's been nearly three weeks since Akira Ross was fatally shot by a stranger at a gas station in Cedar Park. The victim's family says the 24-year-old was targeted because she was gay. KUT's Kailey Hunt reports on ongoing community efforts to encourage police to investigate the shooting as a hate crime.			

## Transportation and Infrastructure

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
4/17/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:57
Travis County is looking to spend almost half-a-billion dollars on roads, parks and drainage. As KUT's Nathan Bernier reports, a committee is putting together a bond package for this fall's election -- and they're pleading for people to weigh in.			
4/20/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:47

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Austin-Bergstrom International Airport is adding three gates to the west side of the Barbara Jordan Terminal. And as KUT's Nathan Bernier reports, construction starts next month.

5/1/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	1:00
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The city of Austin is making progress on turning Nueces Street in the West Campus area into a two-way road. KUT's Nathan Bernier has an update on the project that was announced about a year ago.

6/1/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:42
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The city of Austin will pay 88-million dollars to the company running the South Terminal at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport. As KUT's Nathan Bernier reports, the settlement ends two lawsuits blocking expansion of the Barbara Jordan Terminal.

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## Diversity, Race, and Gender Issues

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
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4/14/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:15
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Austin Justice Coalition is hosting a block party tomorrow, Saturday on East 11th Street. The "Blacker the Block" party celebrates local artists and musicians. It'll feature food trucks, vendors and live music. The family-friendly event runs from noon till six.

4/20/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:49
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The Muslim community in Central Texas is coming together to celebrate Eid EED this weekend. KUT's Haya Panjwani has more on the holiday marking the end of Ramadan.

5/30/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:58
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Austin Opera is accepting applications for a new residency program for Latinx musicians. It's part of a larger push to diversify operatic storytelling.

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## Community Interest and Local Issues

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
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4/12/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:25
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The Fusebox Festival starts today (Wednesday) and runs through Sunday. The 19th annual international performing and visual arts festival features 26 showcases by Austin artists, along with artists representing nine countries. The showcases are happening at venues across the city.

5/18/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:42
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Four of the five fastest-growing cities in the U.S. are in Texas, and three of them are in the Austin metro. KUT's Andrew Weber has more about that list and another notable announcement today from the Census Bureau about how Austin stacks up against other big cities.

5/25/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:55
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Central Texas residents are reporting more sightings of rattlesnakes as the weather warms up. KUT's Haya Panjwani reports on what to do if you see one.

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## Local Government, Management, and Utilities

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Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
4/4/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:40
The Austin Public Library system is growing. Officials plan to double the amount of library space over the next 10 to 15 years. KUT's Sangita Menon has more on what that could mean for neighborhood branches.			
5/11/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:25
The city of Austin is looking for feedback on its budget for the next year. They've launched a survey where folks can adjust how much money they think the city should spend on specific services -- like public health, policing, animal services, housing, parks and more. The total budget for next year is currently slated at 1.3 billion dollars. The survey is accepting responses through May 31st.			
5/16/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:55
Austin Energy says it plans to have enough reserve electricity to make it through the oppressive heat this summer. As KUT's Andrew Weber reports, the utility says it doesn't forecast any strain on the local grid -- despite a dire forecast from ERCOT.			
5/17/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	1:15
Austin Energy customers with medical conditions that could become life-threatening during a power outage can sign up for the city's Medically Vulnerable Registry. KUT's Sangita Menon has more on who qualifies and the services provided.			

## Poverty and Homelessness

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
4/14/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	1:08
The estimated number of unhoused people in Austin rises to nearly 46-hundred under the Austin Ending Community Homelessness Coalition updated counting strategy. KUT's Tanya Velazquez has more about this new method.			
5/26/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:25
The Ending Community Homelessness Coalition has completed a survey to see how many people in Austin are unhoused. The Point in Time Count found that 2,374 people in Austin were homeless. 1,266 of those people were unsheltered and 1,108 were staying in shelters or transitional housing. City Council District 9 had the highest number unhoused population -- at 389 people. And the demographic experiencing the highest rates of homelessness is white males from the ages of 35 to 44.			
6/21/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:44
The Central Texas Food Bank says it's seeing an uptick in requests for food.			

## Weather and Emergencies

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
4/5/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:35
After a cold front moves through the Austin area this morning - be ready for a very windy and dry day. A Red Flag Warning for critical fire weather conditions is in effect till four this afternoon for much of Central Texas. Any fire that starts up outside could spread very quickly. The National Weather Service asks people to avoid doing anything outside today that could set off sparks.			

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5/4/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:25
The National Weather Service says there's still a chance for severe weather late this afternoon into tonight. For Central Texas, strong storms could make their way over between 7pm and midnight. Some storms could contain large hail, damaging wind gusts, or heavy rainfall. Be sure to have multiple forms of communication and have a backup plan in place in case power goes out and you need to relocate.			
6/19/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:20
The National Weather Service has issued another Excessive Heat Warning for Central Texas. Temperatures will be in the triple digits, and it could feel as hot as 116. The agency says the heat warning will last till tomorrow night at 9. They say the heat warning will likely extend into Wednesday.			