

KUT Public File

Community Issues List
1st 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
1/9/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:50
The Supreme Court of Texas today Monday will hear arguments in a case that could decide the future of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas. The court will be asked to determine whether the group that runs the Texas energy grid is, in fact, a part of Texas state government.			
1/13/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:53
Abandoned oil and gas wells are a big problem in Texas. They pollute the air and the water and contribute to global warming. Texas state regulators recently released a map of where some of these wells have been plugged. But, as KUT's Mose Buchele reports, the map doesn't tell the whole story.			
1/19/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:22
Hays County has acquired Purgatory Creek Nature Preserve. KUT's Maya Fawaz says this will permanently protect and preserve the land from future development. (:22)			
2/2/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	1:01
The power outages affecting hundreds of thousands of people in Texas this week, including almost 30 percent of Austin Energy's service area, are reminding many people of the big blackout two years. But, as KUT's Mose Buchele reports, this event highlights a different kind of weakness in the state's energy system.			
2/22/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:55
About ten percent of all cars sold last year were electric or hybrid vehicles. And growth in E-Vs is expected to continue with new federal subsidies. That could have a special financial impact in places like Austin, with publicly-owned electric utilities.			
3/6/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:48
The Lower Colorado River Authority says rice farmers downstream of Austin will not get any water from the river this year. As KUT's Mose Buchele reports, the reason is low reservoir levels upstream in the highland lakes.			

KUT Public File

Community Issues List
1st Quarter 2023

3/14/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:32
Research from Texas State University sheds new light on the importance of Barton and Onion Creeks to the local water supply.			
3/27/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:55
University of Texas researchers say Guinea grass, an invasive plant, has made its way into the Austin area. KUT's Haya Panjwani reports on how it could be affecting native plants -- and another significant concern.			

Health/Healthcare

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
1/2/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:23
The CDC's measure of COVID-19's impact on a community – is now HIGH in some Central Texas counties. The levels are based on the number of new COVID cases, hospital admissions and the percentage of hospital beds those patients are using.			
1/5/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:25
Austin Public Health is asking low-income people about their needs. APH has released what they call a "Basic Needs Survey" to see where they should focus their community funding efforts. Things like food, utilities, household supplies and items for personal care are all considered basic needs. The survey is available in one of seven languages up until February 3rd through Austin Public Health.			
1/13/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:19
Open enrollment for the Affordable Care Act ends this weekend. KUT's Andrew Weber tells us uninsured Texans still have a chance to enroll or renew existing plans online, in person or over the phone.			
2/13/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:43
Federal officials want to change the guidelines on donating blood. KUT's Sangita Menon has a look at how the changes could affect the local blood supply.			
3/20/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	1:07
Austin Public Health is offering incentives for people to get up-to-date with their COVID-19 vaccine boosters.			

Voting/Elections

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
2/20/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:58
A Central Texas Republican is trying to ban counties from putting polling places on college campuses. KUT's Becky Fogel reports students are criticizing the legislation from State Representative Carrie Isaac.			

Legislature

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
1/2/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:50

KUT Public File

Community Issues List 1st Quarter 2023

Texas lawmakers appear to be gearing up for a fight over which books should be allowed in public school libraries. KUT's Becky Fogel reports Republicans have already filed a couple of bills that would restrict what's available

1/09/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	1:01
-----------	-----------------------	---------	------

Texas lawmakers are gathering in Austin for tomorrow's start of the legislative session. KUT's Becky Fogel reports several Democrats have filed bills to change the state's school finance system from one based on attendance to one based on enrollment.

3/16/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:45
-----------	-----------------	---------	-----

Texas lawmakers are considering a bill that would help families pay for non-public schools using taxpayer money. Opponents say these programs subsidize families who can afford private school and hurt the already underfunded public education system.

3/20/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	4:00
-----------	-----------------	---------	------

The Texas state Legislature's current session is in full swing. This year, lawmakers have filed a slew of bills that could have a significant effect on transgender youth; what's taught in schools; and diversity, equity and inclusion efforts. By doing this, Texas joins several other Republican-led state governments in focusing on some of the most controversial social issues.

3/30/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:53
-----------	-----------------	---------	-----

Texas youth organizations are urging state lawmakers to improve voting access, protect LGBTQ+ rights, and work on student loan debt. KUT's Becky Fogel reports, young people rallied at the Texas Capitol on Wednesday to make sure lawmakers are listening.

Education

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
------	--------------	----------	----------

1/11/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	1:03
-----------	-----------------	---------	------

The deadline to apply for Austin Independent School District specialty programs is coming up. KUT's Becky Fogel reports, the programs are offered from pre-k through twelfth grade. 1:03

1/19/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	5:27
-----------	-----------------	---------	------

Pflugerville Independent School District is considering closing several elementary schools. The district says it's millions of dollars in the hole - and blames a lot of that on insufficient state funding. The proposed closures shocked parents and teachers alike. KUT's Becky Fogel reports - families, students, and school staff are urging the district to find other ways to save money.

1/25/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	5:04
-----------	-----------------	---------	------

A school that's part of Williamson County Juvenile Services is trying to help students learn how to manage their emotions with the help of dog therapy. KUT's Becky Fogel got to see how the golden retriever works with kids in the classroom.

2/8/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:57
----------	-----------------------	---------	-----

The Eanes ISD board is asking voters to let the district borrow money to pay for capital projects. KUT's Becky Fogel reports trustees have called a bond election for May.

2/10/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:50
-----------	-----------------	---------	-----

KUT Public File

Community Issues List
1st Quarter 2023

The Austin Independent School District's interim superintendent is apologizing to families for the district's failure to evaluate hundreds of students with disabilities in a timely manner. Matias Segura spoke with reporters on Thursday - after the group Disability Rights Texas asked the state's education agency to investigate AISD's ongoing backlog. He said hiring enough staff to determine whether students need special education services is a challenge.

2/21/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	1:06
-----------	-----------------	---------	------

The Austin Independent School District launched a new sex-ed curriculum in the fall. But because of changes to state law, those lessons were only given to students whose parents or guardians opted *in*.

3/1/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:25
----------	-----------------	---------	-----

The Rockdale Independent School District in Milam County will move to a four-day school week for students starting next year. Rockdale students will attend school Monday through Thursday most weeks. Teachers will use Fridays for planning or professional development. Rockdale I-S-D's superintendent Denise Monzingo says the change will improve teacher recruitment and retention; give educators better work- life balance; and increase student achievement.

3/28/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:58
-----------	-----------------------	---------	-----

More than 200 students were absent from Jarrell Middle School in northern Williamson County yesterday after an online threat against the school. KUT's Kailey Hunt talked with a parent about her decision to keep her child at home.

Housing and Development

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
------	--------------	----------	----------

1/6/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:38
----------	-----------------------	---------	-----

The average price of rent in the Austin area hit just over 16-hundred dollars last month. As KUT's Audrey McGlinchy reports, while that's an increase over this time last year, it indicates a slowing rental market.

1/24/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	1:01
-----------	-----------------------	---------	------

Today the Travis County Commissioners Court approved 35 million dollars in funding for new affordable housing units. KUT's Haya Panjwani reports this is a part of a three year long effort.

3/2/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:59
----------	-----------------	---------	-----

The City of Austin is moving forward on selling nearly a dozen more homes to people affected by gentrification and displacement.

3/7/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:40
----------	-----------------------	---------	-----

The average price of rent in the Austin area is going up. But KUT's Audrey McGlinchy reports it's rising at the slowest pace we've seen in the past two years.

3/22/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:47
-----------	-----------------	---------	-----

Austin is one of the hardest large cities in Texas for low-income families to afford housing. That's according to a new report from a national affordable housing group.

Labor/Business/Economy

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
------	--------------	----------	----------

1/17/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	1:10
-----------	-----------------	---------	------

KUT Public File

Community Issues List
1st Quarter 2023

The price of food is on the rise, and one reason is climate change. A new report from the Texas Department of Agriculture points to a warming planet for harming farming and ranching.

2/17/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:59
-----------	-----------------	---------	-----

For decades, South by Southwest Music has been an iconic piece of Austin's cultural landscape. The festival has brought in billions of dollars to the city's economy. But as KUT's Andrew Weber reports, a new effort is looking to bring some of that money to the backbone of the festival: its musicians.

3/8/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:45
----------	-----------------------	---------	-----

The Austin Parks and Recreation Department has had a shortage of lifeguards for a long time now. KUT's Haya Panjwani reports the department is hoping to make some progress on that this year.

Criminal Justice/Emergency Services/Public Safety

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
------	--------------	----------	----------

1/16/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:39
-----------	-----------------------	---------	-----

Austin police say deadly hit and run crashes were more common in 2022 than ever before. As KUT's Nathan Bernier reports, it was during a record-breaking year for deaths on the roads.

1/23/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:27
-----------	-----------------------	---------	-----

The Austin Fire Department is out with its annual report for the year just ended. AFD responded to more than 100-thousand calls for service, including structure fires, wildfires, medical emergencies and rescues, among other incidents.

2/6/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:46
----------	-----------------	---------	-----

Activists in San Marcos want local leaders to change the city's contract with police. KUT's Maya Fawaz reports on the plan the San Marcos City Council will debate this week.

2/16/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:50
-----------	-----------------	---------	-----

Austin City Council members will negotiate a temporary, one-year contract with the city's police union. Council members had the option to approve a four-year deal. They decided yesterday Wednesday a one-year agreement would allow Austin voters to decide between two upcoming ballot items related to police oversight.

3/17/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:30
-----------	-----------------	---------	-----

Austin Police say more people have been arrested in connection with those high-profile street takeovers last month. APD says most of the suspects came in from Houston, Dallas, San Antonio and other cities to participate in the street-racing. The department has arrested 17 more people in connection with the events that went viral on social media. Twenty-four people overall have been charged on counts ranging from misdemeanors for reckless driving to felonies for organized crime. Six are still at large.

3/29/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	1:03
-----------	-----------------	---------	------

State police will begin patrolling more parts of Austin as local police deal with staffing shortages. As KUT's Andrew Weber reports, some wonder what the change could mean for residents.

3/3/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:28
----------	-----------------------	---------	-----

Austin police officers will get a pay increase. As KUT's Andrew Weber reports, the raises come amid bitter labor contract negotiations between the Austin City Council and the department's union.

3/23/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:52
-----------	-----------------------	---------	-----

The San Marcos Police Department is going back to the drawing board with its city contract. KUT's Maya Fawaz reports negotiations between the city and the police association are just getting started.

KUT Public File

Community Issues List
1st Quarter 2023

Transportation and Infrastructure

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
1/4/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:59
<p>The Texas Department of Transportation is narrowing down its options for widening I-35. As KUT's Nathan Bernier reports, the state agency says it prefers one of two competing designs for expanding the interstate through Central Austin.</p>			
1/11/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:51
<p>More than two-hundred flights were delayed at Austin-Bergstrom today because of that nationwide ground stop. KUT's Nathan Bernier spoke to some travelers who were stuck in the middle of it.</p>			
2/7/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:55
<p>Austin is being ordered to pay 90-million dollars if it wants to get rid of the South Terminal at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport. KUT's Nathan Bernier reports that's almost 50 times what the city initially offered to the company running the facility.</p>			
2/24/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	1:01
<p>Austin's city council is demanding changes to the Texas Department of Transportation's plans to add at least four lanes on I-35 between Ben White Boulevard and 290 East. But as KUT's Nathan Bernier reports, TxDOT doesn't have to do what the council says.</p>			
3/10/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:40
<p>Some roads in downtown Austin will be closed starting today as South by Southwest officially kicks off. Sixth Street from Congress Avenue to I-35 will be closed daily from two pm till six am starting tonight through next weekend. Red River from 5th Street up to 10th will also be closed from two p.m. till 6 a.m. daily starting tonight till next Sunday. And Trinity Street will be closed from eight in the morning till eight at night starting this morning and running through next Saturday. Fifth and Seventh Street in downtown will also be partially closed off through South by Southwest.</p>			
3/15/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	5:14
<p>Austin's vision to build a fast-moving urban rail system by the end of the decade is about to face a new challenge, one that could upend the voter-approved transit expansion: property tax warriors in the Texas legislature. KUT's Nathan Bernier reports on a pair of bills with big name backing that could ultimately derail Project Connect.</p>			

Diversity, Race, and Gender Issues

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
1/12/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	7:50
<p>Black Austin Matters podcast hosts Lisa B. Thompson and Richard J. Reddick talk with Chas Moore, Austin activist and founder of the Austin Justice Coalition.</p>			
1/16/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:23

KUT Public File

Community Issues List
1st Quarter 2023

The city of Austin's hosting a march and festival today to mark Martin Luther King Junior's legacy on this MLK Day. It'll start at nine this morning on the UT-Austin campus at the M-L-K statue near Speedway. From there, marchers will head to the State Capitol for a rally. Participants will then march to the Huston-Tillotson University campus for a community festival from 11:15 this morning till three-thirty this afternoon.

2/14/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:57
-----------	-----------------------	---------	-----

Texas Governor Greg Abbott says he supports legislation that would ban transgender college athletes from competing on teams that align with their gender identity. KUT's Becky Fogel reports an LGBTQ rights group is criticizing Abbott's stance.

3/8/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:49
----------	-----------------	---------	-----

Public university systems in Texas are walking back diversity, equity and inclusion policies - in response to pressure from Governor Greg Abbott's office. KUT's Becky Fogel reports a statewide faculty group is criticizing the changes.

Community Interest and Local Issues

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
2/17/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:54
Austin Parks and Recreation offers summer camps for kids with activities like movie making, dancing, writing, kayaking, and rock climbing. Early registration opens tomorrow morning. KUT's Sangita Menon has more about who qualifies. (:54)			
2/22/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:27
Millions of Austin trees were damaged by this month's ice storm. KUT's Andrew Weber reports the Texas Forest Service has found that Ashe juniper, cedar and live oaks were hardest hit.			
3/7/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	4:00
Austin FC will be in the Dominican Republic this evening to play Violette AC of Haiti. It's the first game between the two teams in the CONCACAF Champions League tournament. They'll play again next Tuesday in Austin. As KUT's Jimmy Maas reports, Violette's participation in the tournament alone is worth a trophy.			
3/27/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	5:29
Allergies are the worst here in the Austin area, right? We're finally at the end of Cedar Fever season. But now oak pollen might be bothering you. Well, a new report is out-ranking U.S. cities by how challenging they are for people with allergies. KUT's Olivia Aldridge reports, the results might surprise -- or even anger you.			

Local Government, Management, and Utilities

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
1/5/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:57
Just before leaving office, Austin Mayor Steve Adler has a criminal complaint filed against him, as KUT's Haya Panjwani reports.			
1/18/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	1:05
Austin has had four citywide boil-water notices in five years. And KUT's Andrew Weber reports a recent audit suggests the utility needs to do a better job of training and retaining employees to avoid <i>another</i> .			
2/3/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:45

KUT Public File

Community Issues List
1st Quarter 2023

Austin's streets - and streets around Central Texas - are littered with broken branches. Now the city's Public Works Department is trying to clean it up. That's a huge task. Austin has more than 25-hundred miles of streets. And a little more than a hundred workers out removing debris. Public Works interim director James Snow is urging people not to try to clean up branches themselves if they're on a public street or sidewalk.

2/8/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:45
----------	-----------------	---------	-----

The City of Austin and some community partners have opened some information centers and resource centers to help people after last week's ice storm and power outages. The information centers are open at Austin and Travis County Community Centers for people to get their questions answered and get information on recovery resources.

2/15/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	5:55
-----------	-----------------	---------	------

A week after Austin City Council members expressed in a closed-door meeting unanimous support for a new city manager, they're scheduled to vote today on a severance package for the presumed outgoing one, Spencer Cronk. KUT' reporter Audrey McGlinchy discusses what the Council is going to vote on today, and how things got to this point.

2/27/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:55
-----------	-----------------------	---------	-----

A leak in an underwater pipeline has forced the City of Leander to move all of its water treatment operations from one facility to another. KUT's Kailey Hunt tells us what that means for Leander water customers.

3/31/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:53
-----------	-----------------------	---------	-----

Following the release of a report that a nonprofit defrauded Austin Public Health, Austin's Office of the City Auditor is strategizing to detect more potential abuses of pandemic funds.

Poverty and Homelessness

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
1/23/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:37
After three years, Austin will conduct an in-person count this week of the population of people experiencing homelessness.			
1/27/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:53
Texas is offering help for people unable to pay their utility bills. KUT's Andrew Weber reports the effort will use millions in federal dollars.			
2/1/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:45
Austinites experiencing homelessness can continue to shelter overnight amid freezing temperatures. As KUT's Andrew Weber reports the city's shelter program is expanding its hours.			
2/16/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:49
The Central Texas Food Bank opened its first on-site food pantry today. KUT's Haya Panjwani has more about how the food bank is addressing a growing need for fresh food in the Austin area. (:49)			
3/2/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	1:00
Austin's longest running shelter for people experiencing homelessness is closing after nearly 40 years. KUT's Andrew Weber reports the shelter serves some of the most vulnerable people in the homeless community – and residents were given little notice.			
3/10/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:38

KUT Public File

Community Issues List
1st Quarter 2023

This month, the roughly 3-point-6 million households in Texas enrolled in Supplemental Nutrition Benefits Program, or SNAP, will see their benefits go down by at least 95 dollars as federal COVID-19 Emergency SNAP benefits end.

Weather and Emergencies

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
1/30/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:51
Central Texas is under a Winter Storm Warning until Wednesday at noon. Freezing rain is the main threat. And the chances of that happening at any given location have been changing through the day. KUT's Trey Shaar has been keeping an eye on it.			
1/31/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:30
The freezing rain impacting just about everything in Central Texas is now expected to last a little longer than originally thought. The National Weather Service has extended the Winter Storm Warning until six o'clock on Thursday morning. They're predicting ice accumulations of a quarter of an inch to three-quarters of an inch throughout the warning area - even in the City of Austin. Officials are asking people to stay off the road unless it's an emergency because of icy roads and treacherous driving conditions.			
