

KUT Public File

Community Issues List
4th Quarter 2023

I. Issues

Energy/Environment
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Voting/Elections
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Housing and Development
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Transportation and Infrastructure
Diversity, Race, and Gender Issues
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
10/6/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:58
There's a chance this weekend to pick up a free tree or two to plant in your yard. The nonprofit TreeFolks is giving away 500 of them. KUT's Sangita Menon has more about the group's effort to improve the urban tree canopy and make the city a little cooler.			
10/18/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:36
A junk removal company is taking trash from Austin residents — and turning it into someone else's treasure. KUT's Campbell Williams has more on "Junkdrop."			
10/30/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:38
After using up much of its water for the year, the City of Kyle continues to try and curb demand. KUT's Maya Fawaz reports on how one conservation program is going.			
11/1/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	1:00
In Travis County, gas-powered lawn equipment, like leaf blowers and lawnmowers, emit more fine particulate matter pollution than cars. KUT's Mose Buchele reports it has some saying the city should do more to encourage transition to electric.			
11/17/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:38
With under two months to go before the end of the year, 2023 has been the hottest on record in Texas. That's according to a recent climate update from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. And as KUT's Mose Buchele reports, the year is also notable for how many damaging and expensive severe storms have hit the state.			
12/5/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:56

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The Environmental Protection Agency has released new rules aimed at dramatically reducing climate heating methane emissions from oil operations. KUT's Mose Buchele reports the rules will have significant impact here in Texas, which has lagged behind other states in controlling the dangerous emissions.

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
12/21/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:46

A new study says Texas can expect more triple digit days in the years ahead – and highlights the need to shore up the state's water supply.

Health/Healthcare

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
10/20/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:53
Local health district Central Health is opening a new clinic this weekend in Eastern Travis County.			
11/24/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:43
We Are Blood is seeing a shortage in donations across Central Texas. KUT's Haya Panjwani reports on how the center is reaching out to potential donors.			
11/30/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	1:01
A local clinic will offer sexual health services free of charge in honor of World AIDS Day tomorrow.			
12/12/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	1:05
The Texas Supreme Court has vacated an order from a lower court that would have allowed a pregnant woman to receive an abortion. In an opinion released Monday night, the court said the Travis County district judge that issued a temporary restraining order allowing 31-year-old Kate Cox to receive the procedure had overstepped. Another case brought by the Center for Reproductive Rights asks the state to clarify the scope of the medical exception. It is still pending before the Texas Supreme Court.			

Voting/Elections

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
10/23/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:48
It's the first day of early voting in Texas. From constitutional propositions to school board elections, there are a handful of races to decide in Central Texas. Here in Travis County, we've got a couple of bond proposals on the ballot.			
11/6/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:47
Tomorrow is Election Day, which means there's still a chance to cast your ballot if you missed early voting. KUT's Maya Fawaz reports on turnout in Travis County.			
12/13/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:55
The Round Rock school board is looking at changing its current electoral system of seven at-large seats to single member districts. KUT's Kailey Hunt has a look at the thinking behind this.			

Legislature

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11/14/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:45
The House is also expected to debate a bill today that would spend one and a half billion dollars to build a wall along the Mexican border. But lawmakers in that chamber have yet to set a vote on the special session's top priority: school vouchers. The proposed legislation, which has already been passed by the Senate, would use tax dollars to pay for private school tuition.			
12/6/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:39
The Texas Legislature ended its fourth special session yesterday. As KUT's Haya Panjwani reports, lawmakers failed to pass some of Governor Greg Abbott's legislative priorities.			

Education

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
10/2/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:41
Texas lawmakers will be heading back to Austin for a special session of the legislature set to begin next week. As KUT's Becky Fogel reports, Governor Greg Abbott has indicated that education will be the central focus.			
10/12/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:45
The Austin Independent School District Board is scheduled to get an update on special education services tonight [Thursday]. As KUT's Becky Fogel reports, it's the first board meeting since the state appointed monitors to oversee special ed in the district.			
10/24/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:45
Retired teachers are hoping Texas voters approve the first increase to their pensions in years. If Proposition 9 passes, former educators will get a 2, 4 or 6 percent cost of living adjustment based on when they retired. The average monthly payment former educators receive from the Teacher Retirement System of Texas is 2,174 dollars.			
11/3/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:55
The Texas Governor's push to create a school voucher program looks like it's going to fail during the current special legislative session. But as KUT's Becky Fogel reports, some private schools in Austin say they're open to participating in a program that gives families taxpayer money to attend private school — if the legislation eventually passes.			
12/11/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	6:25
Pretty much everything costs more than it did in 2019. But here in Texas, the state's public schools are still getting the same amount they were four years ago. Bills that would have increased state education funding this year have been stymied by Texas Governor Greg Abbott, who says his first priority is passing a school-voucher-like program. That flat funding has school districts across Texas struggling to balance their budgets — even large, urban districts with a lot of property wealth.			

Housing and Development

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
10/9/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:48
For the fifth month in a row, rent prices in the Austin area are falling.			

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10/27/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	1:03
Austin City Council members are considering changing rules they say will let developers build more and smaller homes in the city. KUT's Audrey McGlinchy reports, residents had the first chance to weigh in on these ideas last night.			
11/2/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	1:01
Austin City Council members are set to scrap rules that have long required developers to build parking alongside homes and offices.			
11/7/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:37
There's been a further drop in the average cost of renting a place to live in Austin. KUT's Audrey McGlinchy has a look at the numbers and some numbers behind them.			
11/27/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:42
Austin, and its lack of new housing, have been a hot topic for a while. Now, a new analysis of Census data from the City of Austin shows how much housing was built in the last decade.			
12/8/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:59
The Austin City Council voted last night to approve the first phase of changes to the city's land rules -- the goal being to help make housing more affordable. KUT's Luz Moreno-Lozano tells us what's next.			
12/27/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	1:07
Austin's housing market is always a hot topic. Looking back at 2023, KUT's Audrey McGlinchy reports, even though prices dropped, buying a home in the capital city got even more expensive.			

Labor/Business/Economy

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
10/16/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:48
Austin office spaces have higher vacancy rates than other U.S. cities, according to a recent report.			
10/26/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:48
United Airlines flight attendants picketed at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport today. As KUT's Nathan Bernier reports, it was part of a worldwide push by the union to demand better pay and working conditions.			
11/13/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:40
The Texas Workforce Commission has received a 4.6 million dollar grant from the U.S. Justice and Labor Departments. The money is supposed to help people who are or were in federal prisons get trained and find work.			

Criminal Justice/Emergency Services/Public Safety

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
10/5/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:39
The City of Austin has hired a new person to head up its police oversight office. But as KUT's Andrew Weber reports, the decision came quickly – and City Council members have questions.			
10/17/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:60
Austin and Travis County are struggling to staff judges at the downtown jail. As KUT's Andrew Weber reports, the city is moving to hire more judges, but health and safety issues have proved to be a persistent obstacle.			

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11/8/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:55	Domestic and family violence rates are on the rise in Travis County. KUT's Haya Panjwani reports on some of the findings from the District Attorney's Office and one way it's addressing the problem.
11/22/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:50	The Austin City Council will consider a new program for developers that could add more fire, EMS, and police stations around town.
12/4/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:50	The Travis County district attorney has dropped assault charges against 17 Austin police officers who used what are referred to as less-lethal beanbag rounds during racial justice protests in 2020.
12/20/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	1:00	A new report from the city's office of police oversight says Austin police have investigated fewer complaints from the public over the last four years. KUT's Luz Moreno-Lozano tells us more about why that may be.
12/22/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:30	Travis County Commissioners voted this week to approve 800-thousand dollars to renovate and expand The Sobering Center. The center provides people with a safe place to recover from intoxication instead of going to jail or an ER and serves as a bridge to recovery programs.

Transportation and Infrastructure

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration	
10/11/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:30	CapMetro is considering making several service changes that could go into effect early next year. Right now, CapMetro is taking feedback from the community both in-person and online to see how they can adjust customers' overall riding experience. An in-person public hearing will take place today at noon at the CapMetro Headquarters on East Fifth Street.
10/24/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:53	Travis County is trying to expand transit services into its unincorporated areas. And KUT's Haya Panjwani reports county commissioners learned more today about what that would look like.
11/9/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:25	The City of Austin, CapMetro, and the Austin Transit Partnership are looking for people to serve on its community advisory committee. They'll help advise on equity and displacement matters within Project Connect — the city's plan to expand transit options in Austin. Eleven people will serve for four years on the community advisory committee. Applications are open through November 17th.
11/28/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:48	Drivers on U.S. 183 North may be wondering what's happening with a 600-million-dollar project to add more lanes to the highway. KUT's Nathan Bernier reports on what to expect in the coming months on 183 between MoPac and S-H-45 North.

Diversity, Race, and Gender Issues

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration	
10/25/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:45	

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Georgetown is joining a growing list of Central Texas cities to host a local Pride celebration. The city's L-G-B-T-Q plus community will host a block party tomorrow at the Georgetown Public Library. Tomorrow's event will feature a talk on "religion and queerness," followed by a celebration outside the Georgetown Public Library on West 8th Street.

11/21/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:39
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Most people don't know the story of the Shiloh Black Cemetery in Hutto. One local preservation group is trying to change that.

Community Interest and Local Issues

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
10/31/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	6:58
For years, a group of crows has gathered at the Ruiz Branch Library in East Austin, and no one there is exactly sure why. After running into the birds himself, KUT's Mose Buchele decided to look into their behavior, and filed this story in the style of Edgar Allen Poe's The Raven, just in time for Halloween.			
11/13/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:23
A 32-mile trail from downtown Austin to Leander is still in the works, even if it is taking years longer than expected. The Red Line Trail will run along Capital Metro train tracks. But there are some obstacles in the way. KUT's Nathan Bernier says the public has a chance to weigh in.			
11/16/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:51
The Austin Animal Center is over capacity again. As KUT's Luz Moreno-Lozano reports, the shelter has been working to address this challenge through adoptions and fosters.			
12/18/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:42
The Austin Parks Foundation wants to build an all-inclusive park that's accessible for kids with disabilities.			

Local Government, Management, and Utilities

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
10/3/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	1:00
In the months since the February ice storm that left hundreds of thousands without power, the City of Austin has been evaluating how to improve response to disasters. KUT's Luz Moreno-Lozano tells us about a report out today on where improvement is needed.			
10/10/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	1:02
Mayor Kirk Watson regularly uses his private email account for City of Austin business, which appears to be in violation of city policy.			
12/13/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:55
Austin Energy says its outage map has been upgraded to better handle demand during an emergency. During the February ice storm, the website crashed, leaving residents uncertain about when their power would be restored. Austin Energy staff will come back with more upgrades in the next several weeks.			

Poverty and Homelessness

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Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
11/10/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:54
Organizations in Williamson County say they're seeing increases in the numbers of people experiencing food insecurity and homelessness.			
12/1/2023	All Things Considered	3pm-6pm	:48
More than a dozen restaurants and businesses are partnering to raise money for the Esperanza Community, the 5-acre site that for years has been home to Austinites transitioning out of homelessness. KUT's Andrew Weber has more on this 12-day-long effort that started today.			
12/8/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:45
The Central Texas Food Bank is doing more to fight food insecurity in the Austin area. KUT's Haya Panjwani reports on a program the food bank has launched to bring more fresh produce to communities in need.			

Weather and Emergencies

Date	Program Name	Air Time	Duration
11/29/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:50
As winter weather approaches, City of Austin leaders say they are prepared to respond in an emergency. The city says it's improved communication strategies, has teams ready to respond; and has plans in place for shelters and distribution centers. Austin is improving its emergency response after two separate reports identified city shortfalls in recent winter storms, including communication, planning, and preparation.			
11/30/2023	Morning Edition	5am-9am	:30
The National Weather Service says there's a moderate risk for a tornado or two to touch down briefly later today east of Austin - east of the I-37 corridor in Fayette and Lee counties. The National Weather Service puts that risk between two and three on a scale of five - between about eight this morning and two this afternoon. The National Weather Service reminds people in that area to be ready to take shelter inside in the event of storms or tornadoes.			