

AUSTIN UTILITIES NOW

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CITY SERVICES



September 2020

Watch that water, save that energy



Weather drives your energy- and water-use decisions. In the summer with climbing temperatures, that use can drive up monthly costs and show up on your utility bills. Fortunately, you have access to tools from Austin Energy and Austin Water to help you save.

One helpful tool is to check out energy efficiency rebate options at Austin Energy. You can find savings on smart thermostats, LED lightbulbs, air conditioners and even whole-home energy upgrades, which can garner about 20 percent savings on summer energy bills. Check out the rebates and savings ideas at austinenrgy.com/go/summer.

Austin Water offers rebates to help you with water conservation measures such as irrigation upgrades, landscape survival tools, watering timers and more. Find details and tips at austinwater.org.

Remember no-cost ways to save:

- » **Set your thermostat at 78 degrees or higher when possible.** Every degree higher than 78 degrees can decrease your bill by about 3 percent.
- » **Turn off the water.** Don't let water run while shaving, brushing your teeth, lathering in the shower and shampooing or conditioning your hair.
- » **Keep curtains and blinds closed on windows hit by direct sunlight.** The sunlight can quickly raise indoor temperatures 5-10 degrees.
- » **Only run your dishwasher with a full load.** Scrape food from plates instead of rinsing them.
- » **Unplug appliances and electronic devices when not in use because they use energy even when turned off.** Turn off lights and fans when you leave a room.
- » **Water only on your assigned day and times.** Adjust sprinklers so your lawn gets only as much water as it needs without runoff.

If you are facing financial difficulty with your utility bill, you can find more information on utility bill relief at austinenrgy.com/go/cap or austinbillhelp.com.

Find your City Council Candidate Forum

The City of Austin, the City's Ethics Review Commission and the League of Women Voters Austin Area, will sponsor virtual City Council Candidate Forums for city council candidates competing in the November 2020 election.

Individuals can watch the forums at ATXN.TV (English and Spanish), cable TV channel 6 and AT&T

U-Verse channel 99. You can listen to the forums on KAZI FM 88.7.

Below are the dates and times for each council district candidate forum:

- » **District 2:** Wednesday, Sept. 16 at 6 p.m.
- » **District 4:** Wednesday, Sept. 23 at 6 p.m.
- » **District 6:** Wednesday, Sept. 30 at 6 p.m.
- » **District 7:** Wednesday, Oct. 7 at 6 p.m.
- » **District 10:** Tuesday, Sept. 29 at 6 p.m.
- » **If Runoff:** Monday, Nov. 30 at 6 p.m.



Avoid the ick in your green cart

Austin is in the peak of hot temperatures, and you may be wondering what you can do to avoid smells coming from your green composting cart. Here are some tips to keep your green cart clean and avoid some of those unwanted smells:

- » **Use BPI-certified compostable bags, paper bags or cereal boxes to collect food scraps.**
- » **Keep food scraps in your freezer until you set out your cart for collection.**
- » **Line your cart with yard trimmings, paper or pizza boxes.**
- » **Rinse your green cart with mild soap and water between collections and sprinkle it with baking soda when dry.**
- » **Keep your cart in the shade with the lid closed.**

To learn more about Austin's curbside composting program, visit austintexas.gov/austincomposts.



Visit austintexas.gov/candidateforums to learn more or call **3-1-1**.

Email questions for the forums to forum@lwvaustin.org or call **512-451-6710**.

It's time to get down to redistricting



The City of Austin's redistricting process is how residents can make a new mark on their City.

Austin's population is larger and more diverse than it was when the City transitioned to 10-1 representation. That means it's time to draw new district boundaries that take those changes into consideration.

Redistricting is how that will happen. This is the way residents

can change how they are represented by the Austin City Council, and this is how residents can shape Austin's future.

The redistricting process happens every 10 years and coincides with the census. In 2012, Austin voters elected to move to single-members districts from an at-large system. The 10 City Council districts were initially created in 2013 by a diverse group of Austin residents who served on the historic Redistricting Commission.

To start that process, the City Auditor is looking for residents to serve on the Independent Citizens Redistricting Committee. They

are looking to have an applicant pool that is large, qualified and diverse — in terms of race, ethnicity, gender and geography.

Austinites can apply to serve on the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission to redraw the City Council districts and shape Austin's future. Austin residents can apply at redistrictatx.org. The deadline is Sept. 30.

The 14-member Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission will redraw the boundaries of the council districts.

You can find more information at redistrictatx.org or by emailing redistrictatx@austintexas.gov.

Virtual Cool House Tour Sunday, Sept. 27 from 2-4 p.m.

Discover how you can buy, build or remodel a green home by participating in the 2020 Cool House Tour from the comfort of your home. This year's webinar format gives you the opportunity to interact online with homeowners, architects and builders with local project experience.

General admission tickets are **\$10**, Continuing Education Unit tickets are **\$15**, and student tickets are **\$5**.

Visit coolhousetour.com to register.



Know more about the place you are renting

With 55 percent of Austinites renting, it's important to know what kind of place you may be moving into. The Repeat Offender Program from the Austin Code Department could have the information you need to make informed renting decisions. ROP was designed to ensure all rental properties in Austin meet minimum health and safety standards. Does your apartment or rental home have a history of code violations? The Repeat Offender Program will let you know. Find additional resources and explore the Maps & Data feature at austintexas.gov/department/repeat-offender-program.

REGISTER

BE COUNTED. VOTE!

Register now to vote in November!
Visit votetravis.com to:

- » **Download** a voter registration application.
- » **Check** to see if you're already registered in Travis County.
- » **Update** your voter registration address, if you've moved.
- » **See** voter eligibility requirements.
- » **Find** polling locations.
- » **View** a sample ballot.
- » **Get** answers to other voter registration questions.

Don't delay! Visit votetravis.com today!



Now you can request a voter registration application by text message! Simply text "**REGISTER**" to **48683** and follow the prompts. A pre-filled registration form will be sent to you by mail, along with a postage-paid envelope to make it easy to return!

Si gusta recibir este folleto en español, llame a los Servicios Públicos de la Ciudad de Austin al 512-972-9523.

Customer Service Phone: 512-494-9400

24-Hour Power Outage Reporting: 512-322-9100 | 24-Hour Emergency Water Service: 512-972-1000

North Austin Utility Customer Service Center (Walk-in Center): 8716 Research Blvd., Ste. 115

Rosewood-Zaragosa Neighborhood Center (Walk-in Center): 2800 Webberville Road, Ste. 110



© 2020 City of Austin. All rights reserved.

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. TDD 512-974-3256, Relay Texas 711.

SEP-45382