

City of Austin



About

Austin is the capital of the U.S. state of Texas and the seat of Travis County. Located in Central Texas on the eastern edge of the American Southwest, it is the fourth-largest city in Texas and the 15th-largest in the United States.

According to the 2009 U.S. Census estimate, Austin had a population of 757,688. The city is the cultural and economic center of the Austin–Round Rock–San Marcos metropolitan area, with

a population of 1.7 million as of the July 2008 U.S. Census estimate, making it the 36th-largest metropolitan area in the United States.

The area was settled in the 1830s on the banks of the Colorado River by pioneers who named the village Waterloo. In 1839, Waterloo was chosen to become the capital of the newly independent Republic of Texas. The city was renamed after Stephen F. Austin, known as the father of Texas.

The city grew throughout the 19th century and became a center for government and education with construction of the Texas State Capitol and University of Texas. Today, Austin is home to many companies, high-tech and otherwise, including the headquarters of four Fortune 500 corporations; AMD, Dell, Whole Foods Market, and Freescale Semiconductor.



Mayor Lee Leffingwell

Lee Leffingwell is a native of Austin, and grew up in the Bouldin neighborhood, South Austin.

Lee attended Austin public schools and graduated from the University of Texas with a degree in mechanical engineering.

Lee was a commercial pilot with Delta Air Lines for nearly 32 years. After retiring from Delta, Lee became a full-time community volunteer in Austin, with a focus on environmental causes. He was appointed to the city's Environmental Board by the

Austin City Council in 1999, and subsequently elected Chair by his colleagues.

In 2005, Lee ran for and won the Place 1 seat on the Austin City Council; he was re-elected to that seat in 2008 with 68% of the vote. In 2009, Lee ran successfully for Austin mayor, winning the support of every endorsing Democratic, neighborhood and environmental group in Austin.

Austin Climate Protection Program

The overarching goal of the Austin Climate Protection Program is to make Austin the leading city in the nation in the fight against climate change. For more up-to-date information, please read the [annual report](#).

The Austin Climate Protection Plan

In February 2007, the City Council passed a resolution to begin taking action in a variety of areas. The five main components of the Plan are listed below.

1. **Municipal Plan** — Make all City of Austin facilities, vehicles, and operations carbon-neutral by 2020.
2. **Utility Plan** — Expand conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy programs to reduce Austin Energy's carbon footprint; cap carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants; and make any new electricity generation carbon-neutral.
3. **Homes and Buildings** — Update building codes for new buildings to be most energy-efficient in the nation, pursue energy efficiency upgrades for existing buildings, and enhance Austin Energy's Green Building program.
4. **Community Plan** — Engage Austin citizens, community groups, and businesses to reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout community.
5. **"Go Neutral" Plan** — Provide tools & resources for citizens, businesses, organizations, and visitors to measure and reduce their carbon footprint.



Austin City Hall

Opened in November 2004, Austin City Hall is a symbol of the City of Austin's stewardship of the environment. The use of copper, limestone and native plants typifies the Texas Hill Country as well as serves as a model of conservation and sustainability practices.

Austin City Hall

301 W. 2nd St., Austin, TX 78701

(512) 974-2000

ci.Austin.TX.US