

Candidate Questionnaire on Climate and Energy

350 Austin, Solar Austin, Earth Day Austin, Shades of Green

Candidate Name: Linda O'Neal

Candidate For: Austin District 9 Council Member

- 1. What are your top three priorities for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Austin, and what actions would you take to implement needed changes?**
 - a. Rider-friendly bus service. Shorter routes, faster pick up times, sheltered bus stops. If the bus was more convenient and had faster service, more people would take the bus
 - b. No coal in or near Austin.
 - c. Incentivize carpools.

- 2. As mayor or council member, you will be a member of the Austin Energy Utility Oversight Committee. What will you do to make sure that Austin Energy takes the necessary steps to phase out its use of fossil fuels for power generation by 2030?**
 - a. Support wind and solar power

- 3. Despite declining costs of solar, many low income residents and multi-family housing tenants are challenged to participate in Austin Energy's existing rooftop solar programs. Do you think it is important to expand access to solar by developing targeted programs and policies at Austin Energy? Please explain.**
 - a. Yes.. Incentives work, but even with incentives, Austin has gotten so unaffordable; the extra costs are unattainable. Incentivize developers to install solar panels. Taxpayers can afford to incentivize developers for good behavior if we stop subsidizing corporations.

- 4. Local, distributed scale solar installation has produced values to the utility, community and the local economy. Do you support the expansion of utility investment programs (including rebates) for installing solar locally within the Austin Energy territory? Please explain.**
 - a. Yes.

- 5. What specific role and responsibility do you see Austin taking in responding to local, regional and international impacts of climate change, including preparing for large numbers of people displaced by extreme weather events?**
 - a. Our biggest weather displacement is flooding. We need to use porous cover rather than impervious cover on streets that have very little traffic.