

# Mayor and Council

## About the Department

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The City of Austin has a Council-Manager form of government established through the City Charter. The Mayor and Council department was created in Article II of the Austin City Charter. Under guidelines of the Charter the Council is composed of seven members: one Mayor and six Council Members. Each member serves a staggered three year term. Article I, Section 2 of the City Charter states the Council can enact legislation, adopt budgets, determine policies, and appoint the City Manager who shall execute the laws and administer the government of the City. The Council meets in regular session on Thursdays in Council Chambers at City Hall. Special meetings of the Council can be called by the City Clerk upon request of the Mayor and two members of the Council. All meetings are open to the public except as authorized by the laws of the State of Texas.

The City of Austin's vision of being the most livable city in the country means that Austin is a place where all residents participate in its opportunities, its vibrancy and its richness of culture and diversity. Austin residents share a sense of community pride and a determination that the City's vision is not just a slogan, but a reality for everyone who lives here. Local government plays a critical role in determining a city's quality of life. Local government services can make a resident's life easier or more stressful and turn non-residents away or invite them to join in Austin's future. When Austin is viewed by others, it receives high marks. Austin's rankings reflect a City Council that keeps its vision in the forefront while planning for the future.

Austin's City Council has been defining its top policy priorities since the early 1990s. Council priorities support the vision and provide an organizing framework for planning and service delivery. Beginning in June 1993, the City created a report called Strategic Choices that noted while setting priorities might seem simple at the time, few governing bodies did it. In November 2006, the City met to reassess the City's vision and priorities. Council reaffirmed the long-held vision of being the most livable city in the country. After a follow-up worksession to wrap up the work begun in November, Council adopted four new priorities, supported by strategic goals, in April 2007. On April 23, 2009, Council passed a resolution amending one of the four City-wide Strategic Priorities by adding "Family Friendly", in hopes of ensuring that Austin becomes the most livable city in the country. The amended priorities are:

- Rich Social and Cultural Community
- Vibrant Urban Fabric
- Healthy, Family-Friendly, Safe City
- Sustainable Economic Development and Public Health

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## Significant Changes

### Support Service Fund

| <b>Expenditure Changes</b>   | <b>FTEs</b> | <b>Dollars</b> |
|--|-------------|----------------|
| <b>City-wide</b>   |             |                |
| The Budget includes \$41,612 for salary increases associated with Wage Adjustments in FY 2011. An additional \$25,860 is included in the Budget for increased City contributions for health insurance. |             | \$67,472       |

## Mayor and Council - 2010-11

### *Support Services Fund*

|                              | 2008-09<br>Actual  | 2008-09<br>FTE | 2009-10<br>Amended | 2009-10<br>FTE | 2009-10<br>Estimated | 2009-10<br>FTE | 2010-11<br>Proposed | 2010-11<br>FTE | 2010-11<br>Approved | 2010-11<br>FTE |
|------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| <b>MAYOR / COUNCIL</b>       |                    |                |                    |                |                      |                |                     |                |                     |                |
| Mayor                        | \$450,208          | 6.00           | \$472,372          | 6.00           | \$472,372            | 6.00           | \$480,749           | 6.00           | \$480,749           | 6.00           |
| Mayor/Council<br>Admin Costs | \$94,122           | 0.00           | \$77,986           | 0.00           | \$77,986             | 0.00           | \$78,377            | 0.00           | \$78,377            | 0.00           |
| Place 1                      | \$266,734          | 4.00           | \$272,323          | 4.00           | \$272,323            | 4.00           | \$282,107           | 4.00           | \$282,107           | 4.00           |
| Place 2                      | \$262,787          | 4.00           | \$272,323          | 4.00           | \$272,323            | 4.00           | \$282,107           | 4.00           | \$282,107           | 4.00           |
| Place 3                      | \$265,342          | 4.00           | \$272,323          | 4.00           | \$272,323            | 4.00           | \$282,107           | 4.00           | \$282,107           | 4.00           |
| Place 4                      | \$258,552          | 4.00           | \$272,323          | 4.00           | \$272,323            | 4.00           | \$282,107           | 4.00           | \$282,107           | 4.00           |
| Place 5                      | \$254,894          | 4.00           | \$272,323          | 4.00           | \$272,323            | 4.00           | \$282,107           | 4.00           | \$282,107           | 4.00           |
| Place 6                      | \$272,608          | 4.00           | \$272,323          | 4.00           | \$272,323            | 4.00           | \$282,107           | 4.00           | \$282,107           | 4.00           |
| Subtotal                     | <b>\$2,125,247</b> | <b>30.00</b>   | <b>\$2,184,296</b> | <b>30.00</b>   | <b>\$2,184,296</b>   | <b>30.00</b>   | <b>\$2,251,768</b>  | <b>30.00</b>   | <b>\$2,251,768</b>  | <b>30.00</b>   |
| Total                        | <b>\$2,125,247</b> | <b>30.00</b>   | <b>\$2,184,296</b> | <b>30.00</b>   | <b>\$2,184,296</b>   | <b>30.00</b>   | <b>\$2,251,768</b>  | <b>30.00</b>   | <b>\$2,251,768</b>  | <b>30.00</b>   |