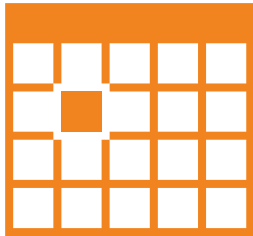


WE ARE OPEN AUSTIN

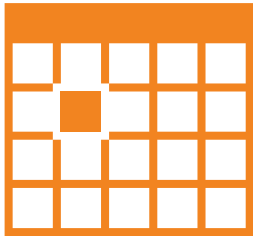
Promoting open government, open data, and civic application development in Austin, TX

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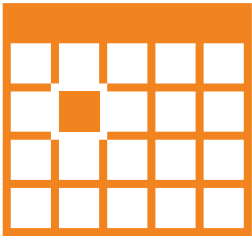
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Policy

The Open Austin Gov Team works with local governments and public agencies, in support of open government and civic technologies.

We educate public officials — and candidates — on important civic tech issues. In recent city elections, we have produced candidate questionnaires to survey candidates on their position on these issues. We do not endorse candidates, but we do encourage voters to be informed on candidate positions.

Here's some of the activity that's occurred during our advocacy for open government.

Open Data Initiative 2.0 – Apr 8, 2015

The city launched its open data initiative with the creation of its new website and open data portal. To increase department participation and open data availability, city management relaunched the effort with the Open Data Initiative 2.0.

20150408_Open_Data_Initiative_2_0 – Memo from City Manager to department heads announcing the Open Data Initiative 2.0

20150408_Open_Data_Participation_Plan – 90 plan to implement the Open Data Initiative 2.0

Open Government Briefing Guide – Aug 27, 2014

As part of our outreach effort for the 2014 City of Austin municipal election, we produced a briefing guide and distributed it to all the candidates for mayor and city council. The briefing guide summarized some of the key policies and initiatives related to open government and open data efforts in Austin.

Open Government Briefing Guide (1.8MB PDF document)

Innovation Office Goals – Oct 9, 2013

We've proposed that the City of Austin create an Office of Civic Innovation, and the City is moving forward on this effort.

In an attempt to clarify the expectations for this office, the Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission adopted a recommendation for items to be included in the mission and goals for the office.

Recommendations Relating to the Creation of an Office of Civic Innovation

Open Government Audit – Aug 28, 2013

The City of Austin Auditor conducted a performance audit of the Open Government Initiative, and presented their findings to the City Council Audit and Finance Committee. A key finding of the report was:

The lack of a defined strategy is impacting the City's ability to successfully implement the Open Government initiative, as directed by Council resolution.

We attended the committee meeting and expressed our concerns about the state of the Open Government Initiative, with focus on the lack of community engagement in the Civic Innovation Office effort.

Report: AustinGO Website Governance and Management Audit

Presentation by City Auditor: AustinGO Website Governance and Management Audit

Presentation by City Staff: AustinGo Website Governance and Management Audit

Presentation by Open Austin: Open Gov Initiative Community Perspective

Video: Audit and Finance Committee, Aug 28, 2013, agenda item 4

Draft Open Government Directive – Aug 26, 2013

Just days before the report on the performance audit of the Open Government Initiative, the City Manager released a draft Open Government Directive. It's expected that the final directive will be forthcoming once the open Civic Innovation Officer is hired. This directive was developed by city staff, working with the Open Government Working Group setup by the City of Austin Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission, and includes our input.

Memo: Draft Open Government Directive

Innovation Office Proposal – Aug 30, 2012

The Austin City Council conducted a Budget Hearing on August 30, 2012, to receive citizen input on the FY2013 budget. At the hearing, we proposed creating a Civic Innovation Office, to provide leadership for the city's Open Government Initiative. The City Council approved adding \$250K funds to the FY2013 budget, to pilot a new innovation office.

Civic Innovation Office Proposal by Open Austin

Open Government Resolution – Dec 8, 2011

On December 8, 2011, the Austin City Council adopted an Open Government Resolution, which called for the City Manager to propose an Open Government Framework, including implementation plans and budgets. We provided input to the resolution, and strongly support its adoption.

City of Austin Open Government Resolution