



# Candidate Profile

City of Austin

City Manager

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### City of Austin

Austin is the state capital of Texas and is the fastest growing metro city of its size. With a population of more than 947,000, Austin is the fourth largest city in Texas and the eleventh largest city in the United States. Home to a substantial regional concentration of headquarters/regional offices for Fortune 500 companies (e.g. Amazon, Dell, Google, and Whole Foods), the University of Texas at Austin, a vibrant music scene, eclectic mix of award-winning restaurants, and more than 250 parks. Austin is number one on the prestigious U.S. News and World Report's 'Best Places to Live'.

Since 2011, Austin has received more than 50 local and national rankings in categories such as economic growth, environmental leadership, education, quality of life, and real estate. Most recently, the City of Austin was ranked number nine on the 'America's Best Employers' list by Forbes Magazine.

As a result of its tremendous success, Austin has experienced challenges the next City Manager will need to address. In particular, the rapid growth of the city has burdened housing, transportation, infrastructure, affordability, and equity. A new innovative approach will be essential to tackle these challenges.

For more information about the 2017 State of Austin City, please visit <http://www.mayoradler.com/2017-state-of-the-city-address-the-spirit-of-austin/>

### Governance Structure

The City of Austin has a Council-Manager form of government whereby the elected City Council sets policy objectives and the City Manager ensures they are carried out and administered effectively. The City Manager also serves as a trusted advisor to the Mayor and City Council.

Under the November 6, 2012 voter-approved charter amendment, Council Members are no longer elected citywide. During the 2014 election, the Mayor was elected citywide, and residents from the new geographic districts, elected the other 10 Council Members.

### City Manager Search Process

The selection of Austin's next City Manager will be the most important decision the Mayor and the City Council make in the coming months.

The success of the 10-1 council system depends on a productive and trusting partnership with the City Manager and creates the most basic building block of successful policymaking and implementation.

In recognition of the importance of conducting a transparent selection process, Council created the City Manager Search Advisory Task Force, which was composed of an appointee from the mayor and each council member. The panel developed and conducted a community engagement process to shape the candidate profile. Members of the public were invited to help identify the types of skills, abilities, experience, and personal characteristics, which are essential for Austin's next City Manager.

The City Council and the Task Force requested the public's input in five ways:

- Public meetings to receive input on the City Manager profile were held on June 12, 16, and 28, July 8 and 12.
- Each Task Force member conducted a meeting or gathered feedback within their Council Member's District. The formats and timing varied to meet the specific needs and preferences of each District.
- City staff received information about the process, were provided avenues give feedback, and were invited to participate in public hearings.
- A website was created for people to submit ideas and recommendations on the City Manager profile.
- Austinites were also provided an opportunity to call Austin 3-1-1.

Based on feedback provided by Austin Residents the responsibilities, relevant experiences, and key competencies the next City Manager must demonstrate to ensure successful candidates are aligned with Austin's goals for its future as a vibrant, liveable city, are outlined below.

### **Responsibilities**

The Mayor and City Council seek to recruit a new City Manager for the City of Austin. This individual must have the skills and experience to lead Austin by combining vision, efficient strategy, and operational excellence together in an open, communicative style.

Reporting to the Mayor and City Council, the City Manager will serve the citizens of Austin by providing executive leadership and representation on all matters concerning city government. This individual will represent and stand accountable for the leadership and management of the daily operations of the Austin government and will serve as a trusted advisor to the Mayor and City Council.

The City Manager will need to create an organizational culture that supports the free flow of appropriate information and recommendations between City Staff of all ranks and elected officials. They should appreciate the value of the community and utilize the practical expertise brought to the table by the Mayor and Council. In addition, this individual should provide avenues for the Mayor and Council to leverage the management and municipal expertise the City Manager and City staff bring to policy questions. In order to be successful, the new City Manager should invest in an open, trusting, and collaborative relationship between the City Manager, City staff and the City Council.

The City Manager will be responsible for a \$3.7B budget (FY 2017), more than 40 departments and offices (including the Police Department (Budget: \$402 million; Employees: 2,640), Fire Department

(Budget: \$185 million; Employees: 1,316), and Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (Budget: \$155 million; Employees: 456), and 13,500 employees. Direct reports include five assistant City Managers, Chief of Staff, and Chief Financial Officer. Additionally, the heads of the following entities report directly to the City Manager: Austin Energy (Budget: \$1.34 billion; Employees: 1,718), Law Department (Budget: \$12.8 million; Employees: 97), Equity Office (NA), and the Office of Police Monitor (NA).

Please visit <http://www.austintexas.gov/service/city-organizational-and-department-chart> to review the City's organization chart.

The City Manager is also in charge of preparing an annual budget for City Council's consideration.

Please visit [https://austintexas.gov/financeonline/finance/financial\\_docs.cfm?ws=1&pg=1](https://austintexas.gov/financeonline/finance/financial_docs.cfm?ws=1&pg=1) to learn more about the annual budget process.

### **Relevant Experience**

The successful candidate may have relevant experience from a variety of industries such as:

- Public Service at the Federal, State, and Municipal levels
- Public or Private Companies
- Non-Profit Organizations
- Higher Education
- Healthcare
- Utilities
- Transportation

Ideally, the next City Manager will have substantive experience in more than one sector. In all cases, however, this individual must demonstrate a record of creating and executing best-in-class solutions to challenging issues such as those highlighted above. All candidates must have at least 12 years of relevant management experience, including five years of senior executive level management experience. We are interested in individuals who seek out and support the utilization of data analytics to aid critical decisions while at the same time can demonstrate deep empathy for other issues at hand.

While the size and scope of previous experience (department size, reporting structure, budget, etc.) will not be the ultimate deciding factor, relevant experience must relate appropriately to the size and complexity of Austin. Additional relevant experience should include past interactions with Federal and State organizations. Previous public experience is essential but not required for the role, however all Candidates must demonstrate a sense of passion for public service and empathy for those in need. Candidates must have experience managing a population/work force similar to Austin's demographics. Given the governance structure of Austin, we are also seeking candidates with experience working/partnering with a Governing Board (public and/or private sector). Fluency in Spanish is preferred. A sense of humour is a plus.

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A Bachelor's degree in business, public administration, government, economics, social science, planning, or a related field is required. A Master's degree or other advanced graduate-level credentials are strongly preferred.

### **Key Competencies**

The next City Manager must be a leader who embodies the spirit of public service, embraces inclusiveness, and displays deep compassion for those in need. The successful candidate will understand the importance of making Austin a livable city for current and future residents by focusing on the issues previously outlined and new ones as they arise. This individual must foster a culture of innovation and open communication while convening, leading, and collaborating with council, neighborhood communities, local organizations, labor associations, businesses, and residents from across the city to achieve excellence. They must have demonstrated examples of leading and supporting transformative initiatives in a highly complex environment. Above all, the next City Manager must be able to build a culture of trust.

In terms of the performance and competencies required for the position, we would highlight the following:

#### **Strategic and Visionary Leadership**

- The ability and confidence to propose visionary and innovative solutions for Austin and to execute policies strategically.
- The ability to advise the Mayor and City Council regarding both positive and negative policy implications by having the aptitude to seek, analyse, and present data from a variety of sources to support multiple viewpoints and to align residents with the City's overall strategy.
- A collaborative problem solver who takes an entrepreneurial and creative approach to developing new, innovative ideas that will stretch the city and push the boundaries within Austin; must strive to make Austin a liveable and welcoming City to all.
- Willingness to balance the desire/need for broad change with an understanding of how much change Austin is capable of handling at what pace, to create realistic goals and implementation plans that are achievable and successful.

#### **Executing for Results**

- Successful track record of managing an entity similar to Austin in terms of comparable size, complexity, and culture, with clear strategic results; has strong business and financial skills; executes policies efficiently and effectively by championing best-in-class operational practices and a culture of operational excellence.
- The ability to set clear and challenging goals while committing the City to improved performance; tenacious and accountable in driving results.
- Comfortable with ambiguity and uncertainty; the ability to adapt nimbly and lead others through complex situations.
- A risk-taker who seeks data and input from others to foresee possible threats or unintended circumstances from decisions; someone who takes smart risks.
- A leader who is viewed by others as having a high degree of integrity and forethought in their approach to making decisions; the ability to act in a transparent and consistent manner while always taking into account what is best for Austin; demonstrates strong negotiation skills.

- Demonstrated capacity to absorb new locations and situations.

**Leading Teams**

- The ability to attract and recruit top talent, motivate the team, delegate effectively, celebrate diversity within the team, manage performance, and widely viewed as a strong leader who develops others.
- The ability to persevere in the face of challenges, and exhibit a steadfast resolve and relentless commitment to higher standards, which commands respect from followers; they should not only motivate staff but also inspire them to be passionate about their job and the customer service they provide internally and to the community.
- A leader who is self-reflective and aware of their own limitations; leads by example and drives the city's performance with an attitude of continuous improvement by being open to feedback and self-improvement.
- Must show the ability to relate to the culture of a civil service work force.

**Relationships and Influence**

- Naturally connects with and, builds strong relationships with others, demonstrating strong emotional intelligence and an ability to communicate clearly and persuasively.
- An ability to inspire trust and followership internally and externally through compelling influence, powerful charisma, passion in their beliefs, and active drive; understands the importance of finding common ground.
- Encourages others to share the spotlight and visibly celebrates and supports the success of the team.
- Has the humility to ask questions, the courage to seek guidance, and the wisdom to value the diversity of thought.
- Creates a sense of purpose/meaning for the team and community which generates followership beyond their own personality and engages others to the greater purpose for Austin as a whole.

**Stewardship of Community Values**

- Ability to value and embrace diversity within the department and community.
- Ability to support the vision of Austin as a welcoming and inclusive city.
- Naturally connects with an active citizenry passionate about questions of equity, diversity, fiscal responsibility, environmental sustainability, and social justice.
- Capably articulates how local government can enhance the common good.

**Application Process**

Interested applicants may send an email with a current resume and cover letter to Russell Reynolds Associates at [citymanager@russellreynolds.com](mailto:citymanager@russellreynolds.com).

**Additional Information about Austin**

For more information about the City of Austin, please visit <http://www.austintexas.gov>

To learn more about Employee Benefits, please visit <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/active-employee-benefits>

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