

Council Member Kathie Tovo - Biography



Council Member Kathie Tovo was elected to the Austin City Council on June 18, 2011. Prior to taking office, she taught writing and interdisciplinary studies at the college level and worked at Humanities Texas, the state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. She holds a Ph.D. from The University of Texas at Austin and a B.A. with honors from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

As former president of the Bouldin Creek Neighborhood Association and vice president of the Austin Neighborhoods Council, Tovo has a long history of neighborhood advocacy and served on many city and school district boards and task forces, including the Planning Commission, the CreateAustin task force, the Families and Children Task Force, and AISD's Community Committee on Neighborhoods and Schools.

Her Council service includes appointments to the Audit and Finance Subcommittee; the Minority and Women Business Enterprise and Small Business Council Subcommittee; the Joint Subcommittee of the City of Austin, AISD, and Travis County; Community Action Network; the Capital Area Council of Governments; and the Police Retirement Board. She participates regularly in the Council's Public Health and Human Services Subcommittee and the Psychiatric Stakeholders Committee. She also served on the Economic Incentives Work Group, which revised the incentives process to include enhanced requirements for domestic partner benefits, living wages, and other important provisions.

Tovo serves on the advisory board of the Settlement Home for Children and enjoys participating in the Austin chapter of Families with Children from China. Tovo is a member of St. John's United Methodist Church and the Reconciling Ministries Network, which is an organization working for full participation of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities within the Methodist Church. She is married to Tom Hurt, founder and principal of Hurt Architecture, and they live in a 100-year-old house just north of UT. Their eight and nine-year-old daughters attend Bryker Woods Elementary.