



## Summary of City of Austin Voter Survey November 19-22, 2010

The following results are from a telephone survey of N=700 randomly selected registered voters and likely Austin municipal voters in the city of Austin. This survey was conducted November 19-22, 2010. The margin of error to the results of this survey is +/- 3.7% at the .95 test level. Key findings from this survey are provided below.

### 1. ROLE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY

64% of Austin voters think that nuclear energy should play an important role in the future energy needs of Austin.

How important a role do you think nuclear power should have in meeting Austin's future energy needs?

64% Important  
23% Not Important

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### 2. STABLE PRICE AND RELIABLE ENERGY

When presented with the following statement, 75% of Austin voters favor Austin Energy purchasing more nuclear energy from the South Texas Nuclear Project.

Nuclear power plants generate reliable electric power at a stable price.

75% more likely  
26% less likely

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### 3. EXISTING RELATIONSHIP

76% of Austin voters favor Austin Energy purchasing power from STP 3&4 when they know that Austin Energy is already purchasing nuclear power from STP 1&2.

25% of Austin's power needs already comes from nuclear energy and it has been very cost effective.

76% Favor  
24% Oppose

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#### **4. CARBON FREE**

When presented with the following statement, 75.4% of respondents favor Austin Energy purchasing more nuclear power from the South Texas Nuclear Project.

Nuclear power plants are cleaner for the environment than plants fueled by coal or natural gas because they don't produce emissions.

75% Favor  
25% Oppose

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#### **5. INDEPENDENT**

When presented with the following statement, 86% of Austinites favor Austin Energy purchasing more nuclear energy from the South Texas Nuclear Project.

The U.S. needs to become more energy independent and not rely on energy from politically unstable parts of the world.

86% Favor  
15% Oppose

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#### **6. SOUTH TEXAS PROJECT**

After hearing about the project, 70% of likely voters favor Austin Energy purchasing building additional nuclear power from the South Texas Nuclear Project.

In general, do you favor or oppose Austin purchasing additional nuclear power from the South Texas Nuclear Project to meet Austin's energy needs?

70% Favor  
20% Oppose  
9% Unsure / Refused

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*NRG Survey - November 19 - 22, 2010  
Top Lines - All Responses*

Hello, this is ----- with Southwest Opinion Research. We are conducting a public opinion survey about current and future energy policy in the Austin area.

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In general, do you favor or oppose nuclear power plants to generate electricity for Austin Energy? **[Ask the follow up question: Is that strongly or somewhat favor/oppose?]**

<b>ANSWER</b>	<b>%</b>
STRONGLY FAVOR	18.5%
SOMEWHAT FAVOR	28.5%
STRONGLY OPPOSE	19.9%
SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	16.2%
DON'T KNOW	17.0%

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In your own words, tell me why you generally favor nuclear power plants in providing electricity for Austin Energy

<b>ANSWER</b>	<b>%</b>
CLEAN OR ENVIRONMENTAL	14.5%
SAFE OR RELIABLE	5.5%
ECONOMICAL OR EFFICEINT	14.2%
NEED THIS ENERGY SOURCE	6.3%
OTHER COUNTRIES	1.0%
OTHER REASONS	1.4%
NO ANSWER GIVEN	4.0%

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In your own words, tell me why you generally oppose nuclear power plants in providing electricity for Austin Energy

<b>ANSWER</b>	<b>%</b>
ENVIRONMENT	2.3%
SAFETY, DANGEROUS, RISKY	13.3%
COST OR HISTORY OF STP	3.9%
WASTE & DISPOSAL ISSUES	9.5%
BETTER ALTERNATIVES	4.4%
OTHER REASONS	0.6%
NO ANSWER GIVEN	2.1%

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**NRG Survey - November 19 - 22, 2010**  
**Top Lines - All Responses**

Austin owns 16% of the South Texas Nuclear Project power plant and uses nuclear power to supply 25% of its total energy needs. Over the years, the cost of this power has become lower than the cost of power generated by natural gas and coal. How important a role do you think nuclear power should have in meeting Austin's future power needs? [Ask the follow up question: Is that very or somewhat favor/oppose?]

**Summary Q 1**

<b>ANSWER</b>	<b>%</b>
VERY IMPORTANT	28.6%
SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	35.3%
NOT TOO	12.2%
NOT ALL	11.1%
DON'T KNOW	12.8%

Nuclear power does not produce carbon emissions. Do you think nuclear energy is better or worse for the environment than carbon producing sources of energy such as coal or natural gas?

<b>ANSWER</b>	<b>%</b>
BETTER	47.3%
WORSE	17.4%
SAME	18.1%
NOT SURE	17.2%

Now I would like to ask you about a specific nuclear project. The South Texas Nuclear Project is located just outside of Bay City in south Texas. There are two nuclear units at this site, which generate electricity. Would you favor or oppose the building of two additional nuclear power plants at that same location?

<b>ANSWER</b>	<b>%</b>
STRONGLY FAVOR	19.6%
SOMEWHAT FAVOR	22.7%
STRONGLY OPPOSE	20.6%
SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	13.2%
DON'T KNOW	23.9%

If these two units were built, would you favor or oppose Austin



NRG Survey - November 19 - 22, 2010  
 Top Lines - All Responses

Energy purchasing more of the nuclear power generated from this project?

ANSWER	%
STRONGLY FAVOR	35.5%
SOMEWHAT FAVOR	23.7%
STRONGLY OPPOSE	14.8%
SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	12.2%
DON'T KNOW	13.9%

Would you favor or oppose Austin Energy purchasing nuclear power from these two new units if Austin Energy signed a contract to purchase the power at a rate competitive with coal and natural gas that is set and will not rise for 40 years?

ANSWER	%
STRONGLY FAVOR	41.3%
SOMEWHAT FAVOR	24.1%
STRONGLY OPPOSE	15.4%
SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	7.5%
DON'T KNOW	11.7%

Would you favor or oppose the building of these new units if the daily operation of these new units increased the amount of water that the South Texas Nuclear Project draws from the Colorado River Basin?

ANSWER	%
STRONGLY FAVOR	9.8%
SOMEWHAT FAVOR	19.9%
STRONGLY OPPOSE	26.2%
SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	26.1%
DON'T KNOW	18.1%

Now I am going to read you some statements about nuclear energy. After each statement, please tell me if that statement makes you more likely or less likely to support Austin Energy purchasing more nuclear energy from the South Texas Nuclear Project.

- a. 25% of Austin's power needs already comes from nuclear energy and it has been very cost effective

**Summary Q 3**

ANSWER	%
MORE	76.1%
LESS	23.9%

b. It's good to have energy from several sources, including nuclear power plants to reduce our reliance on fossil fuel

ANSWER	%
MORE	75.6%
LESS	24.4%

b. The US needs to become more energy independent and not rely on energy from politically unstable parts of the world

**Summary Q 5**

ANSWER	%
MORE	85.5%
LESS	15.3%

d. Additional nuclear power plants are strongly supported by both President Obama and Republicans in Congress

ANSWER	%
MORE	58.7%
LESS	41.3%

e. More nuclear energy could lock in stable prices and affordable prices for Austin Energy customers - especially for lower income customers

ANSWER	%
MORE	75.4%
LESS	24.6%

f. Every day, safety experts inspect nuclear power plants. If a nuclear power plant is not operating safely, the inspector will shut it down until its safe

ANSWER	%
MORE	82.5%
LESS	17.5%

g. Nuclear power plants generate reliable electric power at a stable price

**Summary Q 2**



NRG Survey - November 19 - 22, 2010  
Top Lines - All Responses

ANSWER	%
MORE	75.1%
LESS	25.9%

h. Historically, natural gas prices fluctuate up and down, but nuclear power costs are much more stable

ANSWER	%
MORE	76.7%
LESS	23.3%

i. Nuclear power plants are cleaner for the environment than plants fueled by coal or natural gas because they don't produce emissions

Summary Q 4

ANSWER	%
MORE	75.4%
LESS	24.6%

j. The by-product of a nuclear power plant is unspent radioactive fuel that remains at the plant for years before it is stored somewhere else

ANSWER	%
MORE	27.7%
LESS	72.3%

k. Solar and wind power cannot be generated 24 hours a day. Therefore they cannot be used for the continuous energy consumption needs called the base load. For Austin Energy, the choice for base load is between nuclear, coal, or gas.

ANSWER	%
MORE	59.7%
LESS	40.3%

Would you support Austin Energy buying additional nuclear power from the new units if it meant that another coal plant would not be built?

ANSWER	%
STRONGLY FAVOR	53.1%
SOMEWHAT FAVOR	20.5%
STRONGLY OPPOSE	8.3%
SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	6.1%



NRG Survey - November 19 - 22, 2010  
 Top Lines - All Responses

DON'T KNOW	12.1%
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After having heard more about these issues, let me ask you again - In general, how important a role do you think nuclear power should have in meeting Austin's future power needs? ? [Ask the follow up question: Is that very or somewhat favor/oppose?]

ANSWER	%
VERY IMPORTANT	37.5%
SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	37.5%
NOT TOO	9.6%
NOT ALL	10.8%
DON'T KNOW	4.6%

In general, do you favor or oppose Austin purchasing additional nuclear power from the South Texas Nuclear Project to meet Austin's energy needs? [Ask the follow up question: Is that strongly or somewhat favor/oppose?]

Summary Q 6

ANSWER	%
STRONGLY FAVOR	36.6%
SOMEWHAT FAVOR	33.6%
STRONGLY OPPOSE	10.6%
SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	9.9%
DON'T KNOW	9.3%