Short Report:
Austin Housing Equity Survey Results (2017)

The following figures summarize responses to Texas Appleseed's Austin Housing Equity Survey. The survey was conducted online through Google forms and shared through various Facebook groups, Texas Appleseed social media accounts, as well as listservs.
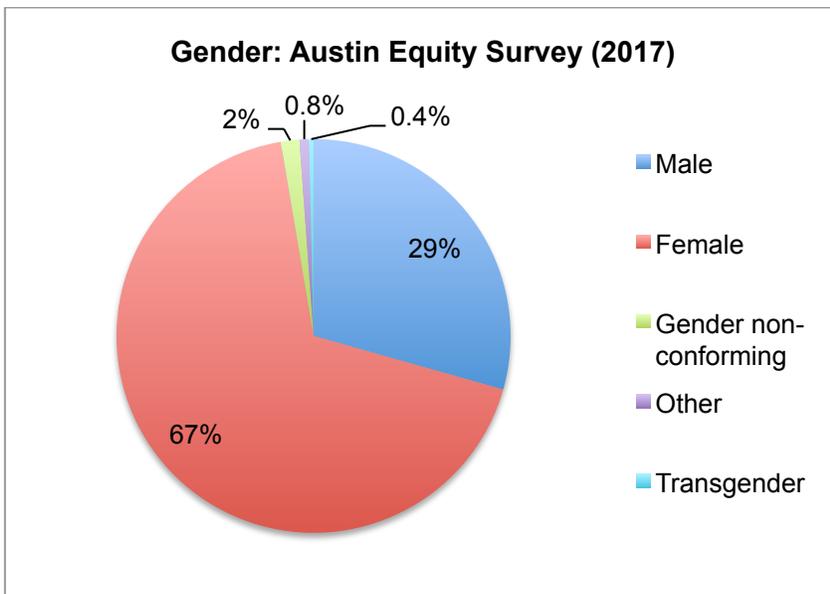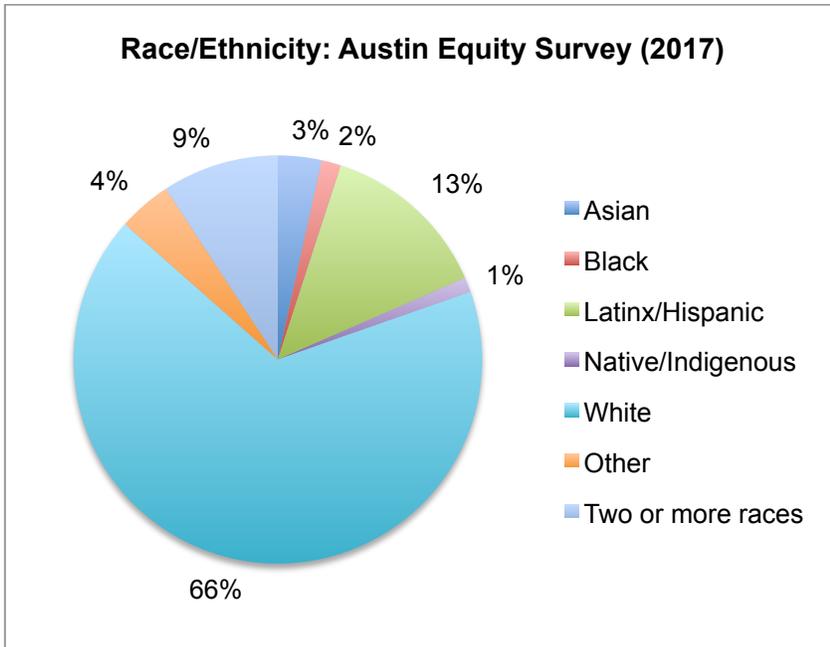
Demographics of Respondents

Initially, there were 302 responses to the survey. However, 38 responses were dropped from the final results because the survey was recorded multiple times (however, their initial response was included in the final results) or because the respondent reported a zip code outside of Austin's city limits. Thus, the final sample included 264 individuals.

Looking at the reported zip codes of the survey takers, respondents appear to be most concentrated in the downtown Austin region, though there is also considerable variability in representation across Austin.[1]


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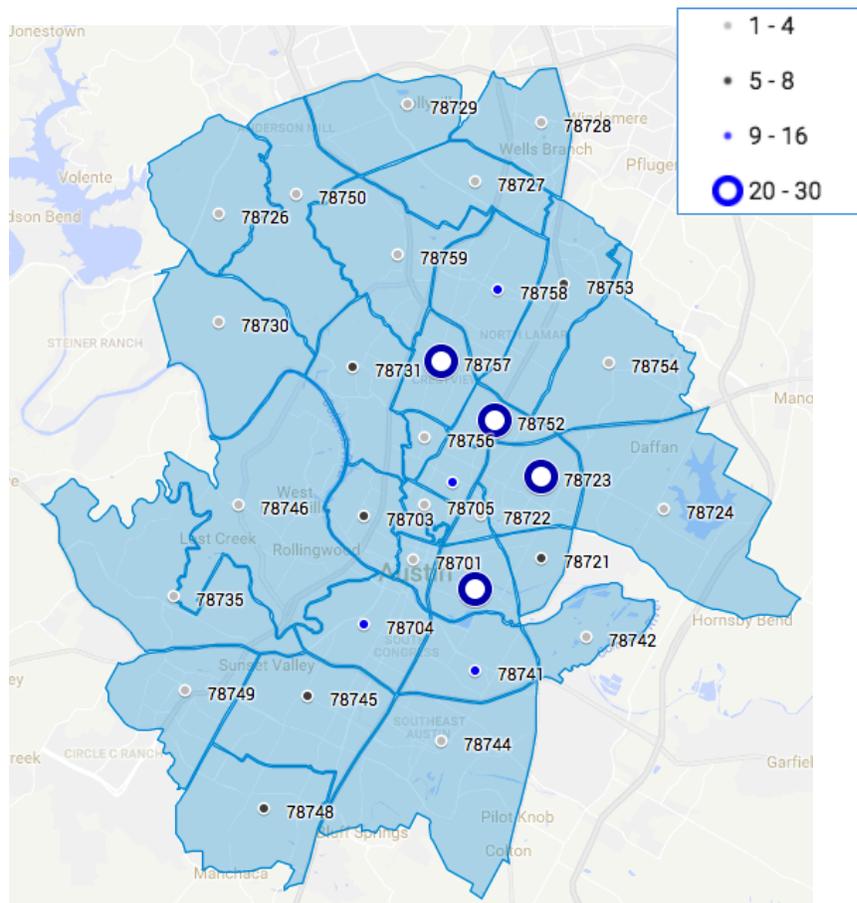
[1] Note: 42 individuals were not included on the map because they either did not provide a zip code

Of the 264 respondents, 66% were White, 13% were Latinx/Hispanic, 9% were multi-racial, 3% were Asian, 2% were Black, 1% were Native/Indigenous, and 4% reported 'other'. Additionally, 67% of the respondents were female, 29% were male, 2% were gender non-conforming, 0.8% were transgender, and 0.8% reported 'other'.

Race/Ethnicity: Austin Equity Survey (2017)

- Asian
- Black
- Latinx/Hispanic
- Native/Indigenous
- White
- Other
- Two or more races

Gender: Austin Equity Survey (2017)

- Male
- Female
- Gender non-conforming
- Other
- Transgender

Most of the respondents reported an annual household income of at least $50,000. There were very few respondents who reported an annual household income of less than $30,000.
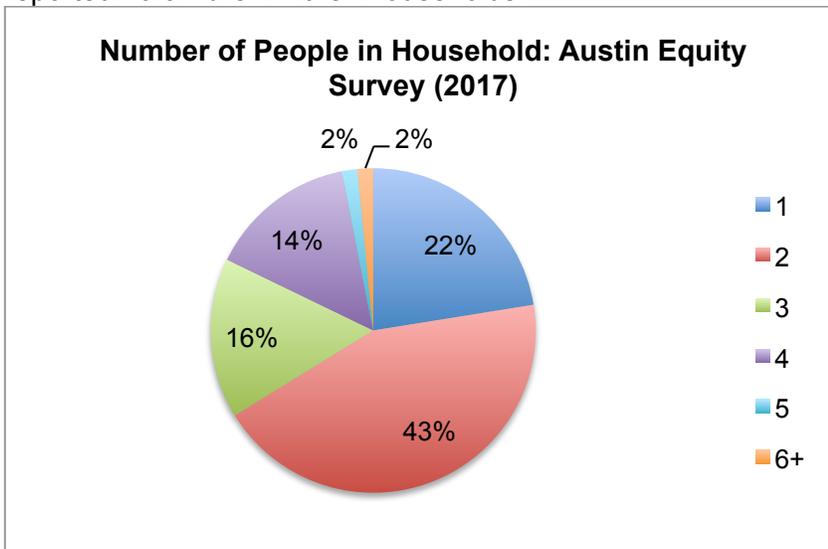
Household Income: Austin Equity Survey (2017)
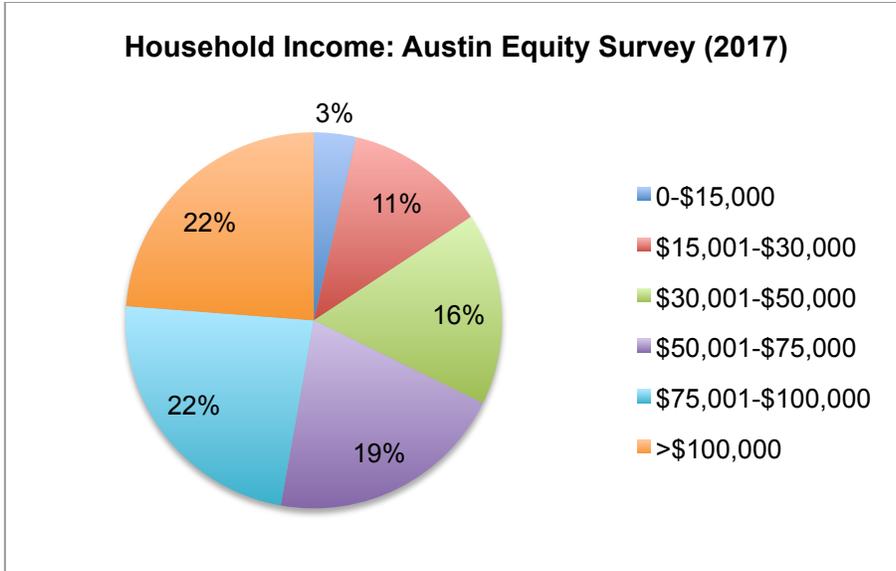
Reported Annual Household Income (2017)

Annual Household Income	Count (%)
0-$15,000	9 (3%)
$15,001-$30,000	30 (11%)
$30,001-$50,000	41 (16%)
$50,001-$75,000	51 (19%)
$75,001-$100,000	58 (22%)
>$100,000	59 (22%)

Note: 16 individuals did not report their annual household income.

Most of the respondents reported living in households with 2 people and a majority of respondents reported no children in their households.

Number of People in Household: Austin Equity Survey (2017)

Number of Children in Household: Austin Equity Survey (2017)

Color	Category
■	0
■	1
■	2
■	3
■	4
■	5+

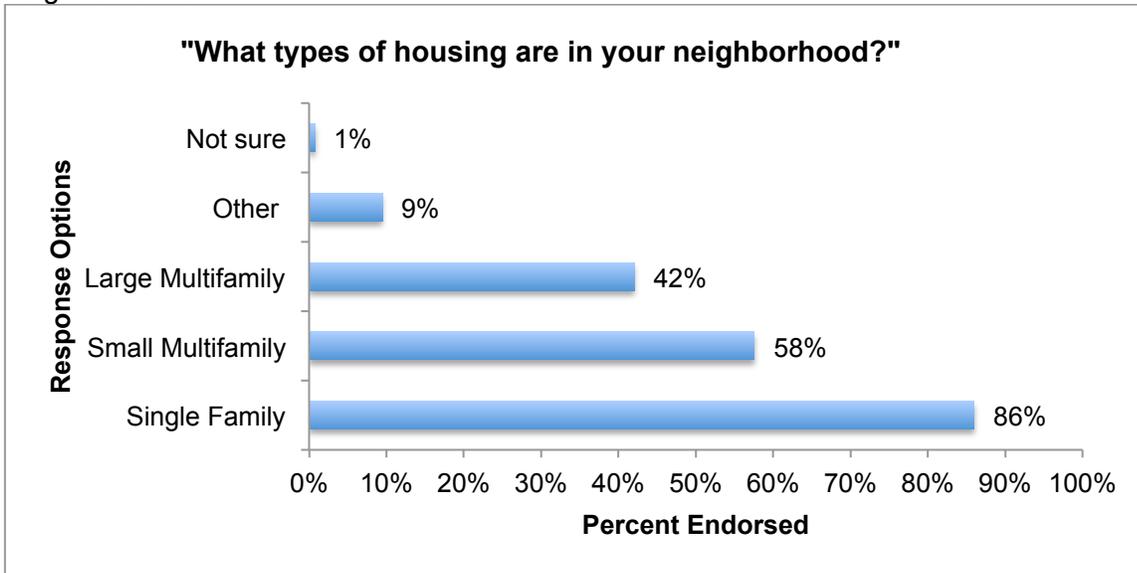Pie chart values: 64%, 16%, 13%, 1%, 0.4%, 0.4%
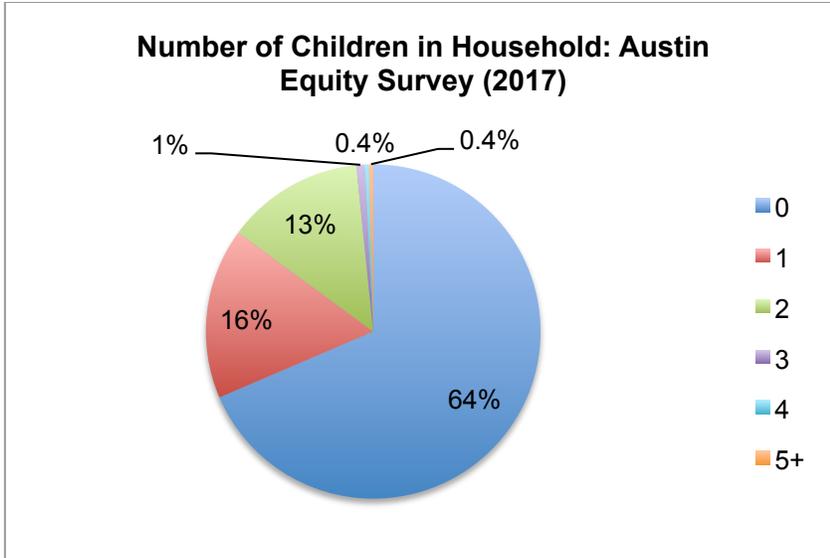
Nearly all respondents reported single family and small multifamily housing in their neighborhood. Lastly, most respondents reported commercial and institutional uses of the land in their neighborhoods.

"What types of housing are in your neighborhood?"

Response Options / Percent Endorsed:
- Not sure: 1%
- Other: 9%
- Large Multifamily: 42%
- Small Multifamily: 58%
- Single Family: 86%

Housing Types in Neighborhood (2017)

Item: "What types of housing are in your neighborhood?"	Total endorsed	Percent endorsed
Single family	227	86%
Small Multifamily	152	58%
Large Multifamily	111	42%
Other	25	9%
Not sure	2	1%

"Are there other land uses in your neighborhood?"
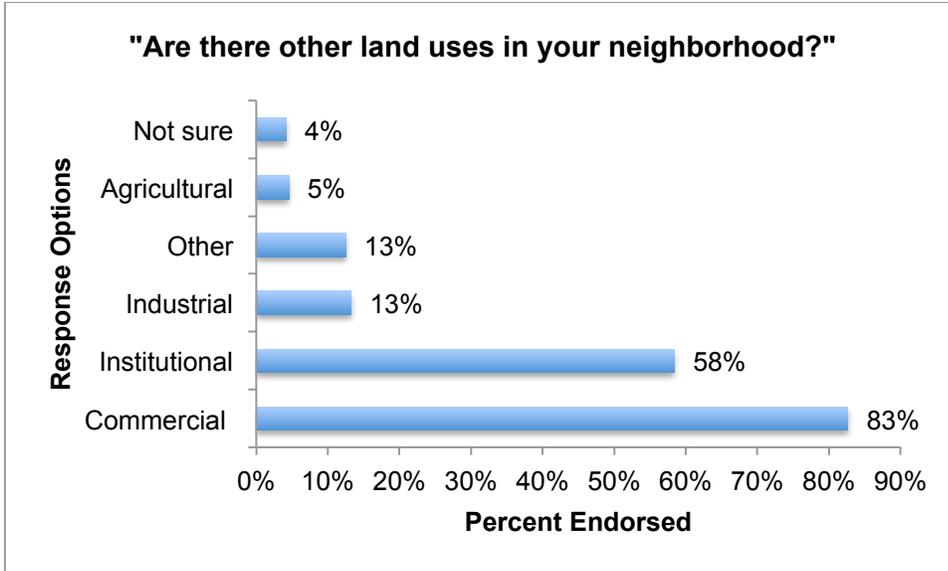
Other Land Uses in Neighborhood (2017)

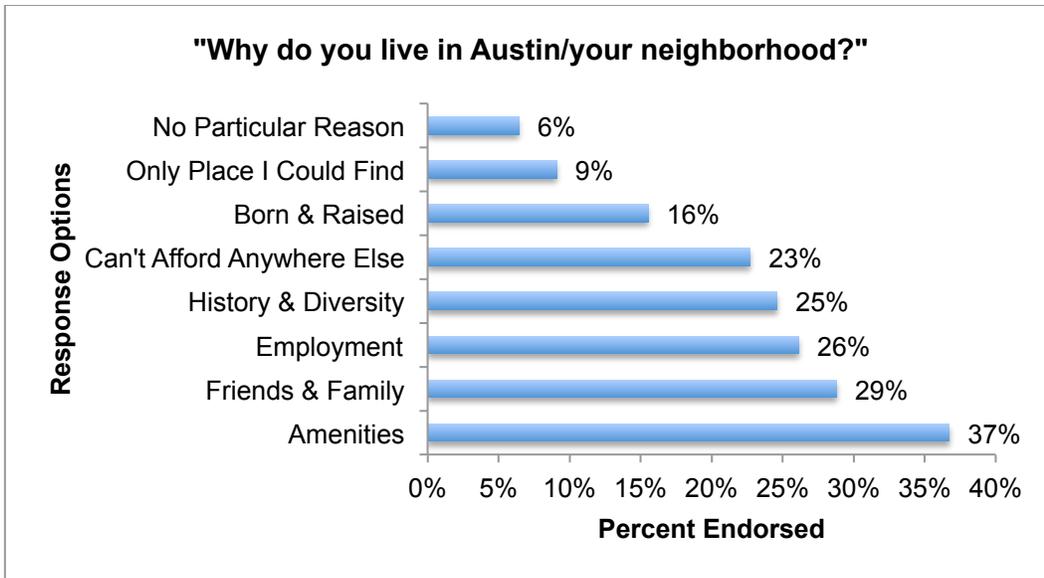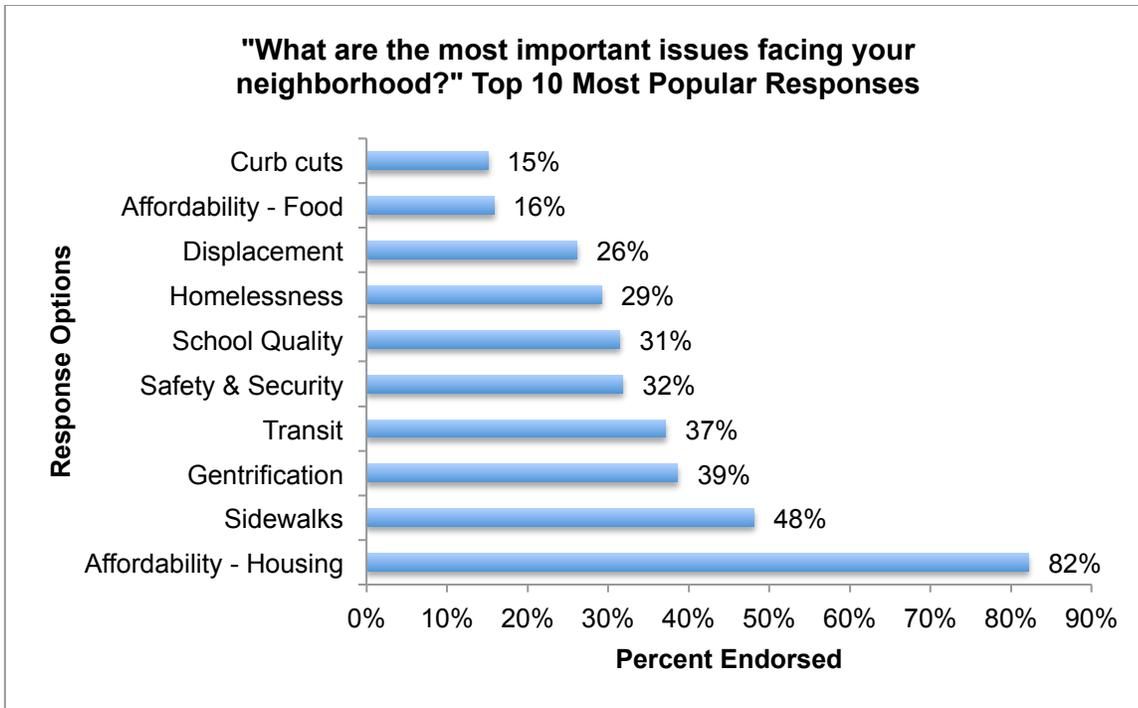| Item: "Are there other land uses in your neighborhood?"	Total endorsed	Percent endorsed
Commercial (i.e., buildings, offices, shops, restaurants)	218	83%
Institutional (i.e., schools, government offices, museums)	154	58%
Industrial (i.e., manufacturing)	35	13%
Other	33	13%
Agricultural	12	5%
Not sure	11	4%

Issues and Concerns

We also asked respondents to report the reasons they decided to live in Austin/their neighborhood. The most popular reason respondents chose was for the amenities, followed by having friends and family in the neighborhood. Only 6% of respondents listed no particular reason as a response.

"Why do you live in Austin/your neighborhood?"

Response Options	Percent Endorsed
No Particular Reason	6%
Only Place I Could Find	9%
Born & Raised	16%
Can't Afford Anywhere Else	23%
History & Diversity	25%
Employment	26%
Friends & Family	29%
Amenities	37%

Reasons to Live in Neighborhood (2017)

Item: "Why do you live in Austin/your neighborhood?"	Total endorsed	Percent endorsed
Amenities (i.e., parks, grocery stores, schools, festivals, entertainment)	97	37%
I have friends and family here	76	29%
An employment opportunity	69	26%
Austin's/This neighborhood's history and diversity	65	25%
I can't afford to live somewhere else	60	23%
I was born and raised here	41	16%
This is the only place I could find housing	24	9%
No particular reason	17	6%

When asked to identify the most important issues facing their neighborhoods, the most popular response was affordable housing, followed by inadequate sidewalks. The least popular response was police brutality, with just 3% of respondents reporting it as an important issue facing their neighborhood.

"What are the most important issues facing your neighborhood?" Top 10 Most Popular Responses

Response Options	Percent Endorsed
Curb cuts	15%
Affordability - Food	16%
Displacement	26%
Homelessness	29%
School Quality	31%
Safety & Security	32%
Transit	37%
Gentrification	39%
Sidewalks	48%
Affordability - Housing	82%

Most Important Issues Facing Neighborhood, Ranked by Endorsement (2017)

Item: "What are the most important issues facing your neighborhood?	Total endorsed	Percent endorsed
Affordability – Housing	217	82%
Inadequate infrastructure – Sidewalks	127	48%
Gentrification	102	39%
Transit	98	37%
Safety and security	84	32%
School Quality	83	31%
Homelessness	77	29%
Displacement	69	26%
Affordability – Food	42	16%
Inadequate infrastructure – Curb cuts	40	15%
Inadequate infrastructure – Streets	35	13%
Pollution and cleanliness	34	13%
Policing – Not enough of a presence	34	13%
Inadequate infrastructure – Drainage	32	12%
Affordability – Retail	28	11%
Inadequate infrastructure – Public services	23	9%
Affordability – Services	20	8%
Other	14	5%
Policing – Too much of a presence	11	4%
Policing – Police brutality	8	3%

Almost all respondents are positive towards affordable housing, with 84% reporting that all neighborhoods in Austin should have affordable housing. Additionally, 78% of respondents believed that all neighborhoods in Austin should have a variety of housing types. Lastly, 82% of respondents believed that the greatest needs in infrastructure investment should be addressed first.

Endorsement of Affordable Housing (2017)

Item: "Do you think all neighborhoods in Austin should have affordable housing?	Total endorsed	Percent endorsed
Yes	221	84%
No	22	8%
Not sure	21	8%

Note: 1 individual who selected multiple options was counted in the 'Not Sure' response option

"Do you think all neighborhoods in Austin should have affordable housing?"
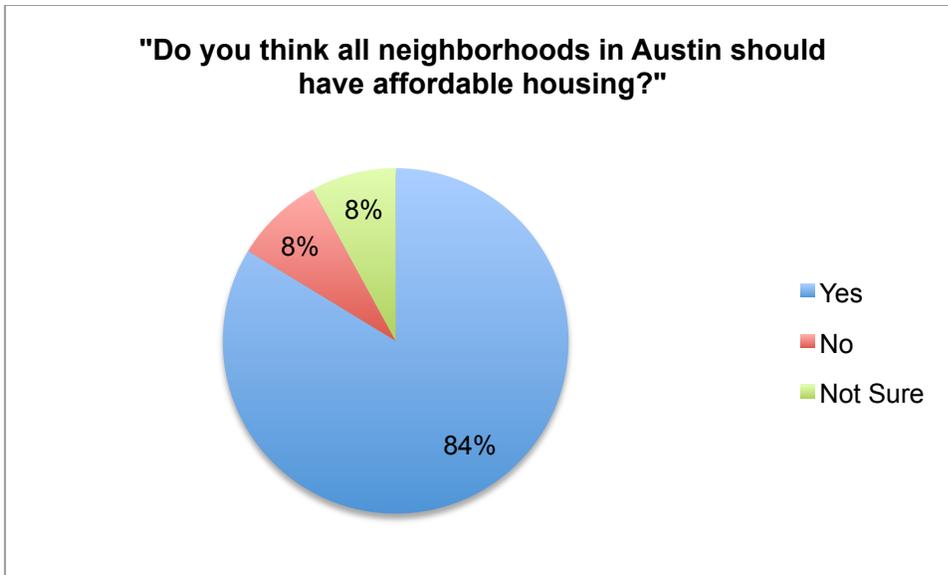
**Endorsement of a Variety of Housing Types (2017)**

Item: "Do you think all neighborhoods in Austin should have a variety of housing types? (i.e., single and multifamily)	Total endorsed	Percent endorsed
Yes	205	78%
No	32	12%
Not sure	27	10%

Note: 2 individuals who selected multiple options were counted in the 'Not Sure' response option

"Do you think all neighborhoods in Austin should have a variety of housing types?"

Pie chart legend:
- Yes — 78%
- No — 12%
- Not sure — 10%
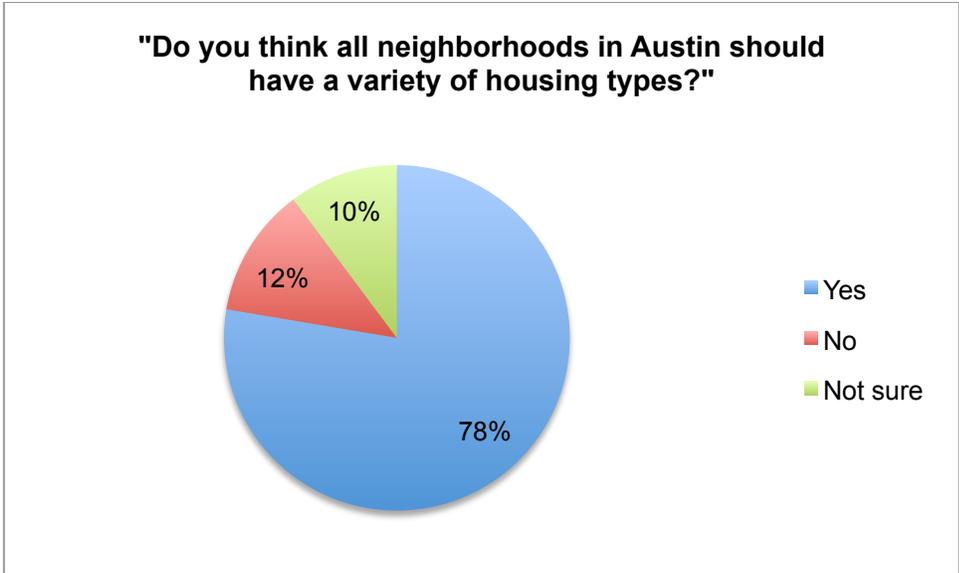
Infrastructure Investment Priorities (2017)

Item: "How should the city of Austin prioritize infrastructure investment?"	Total endorsed	Percent endorsed
Greatest needs should be addressed first	216	82%
All districts should get an equal share of resources	31	12%
Not sure	20	8%

"How should the city of Austin prioritize infrastructure investment?"

Pie chart legend:
- Greatest needs — 82%
- Equal share — 12%
- Not sure — 8%
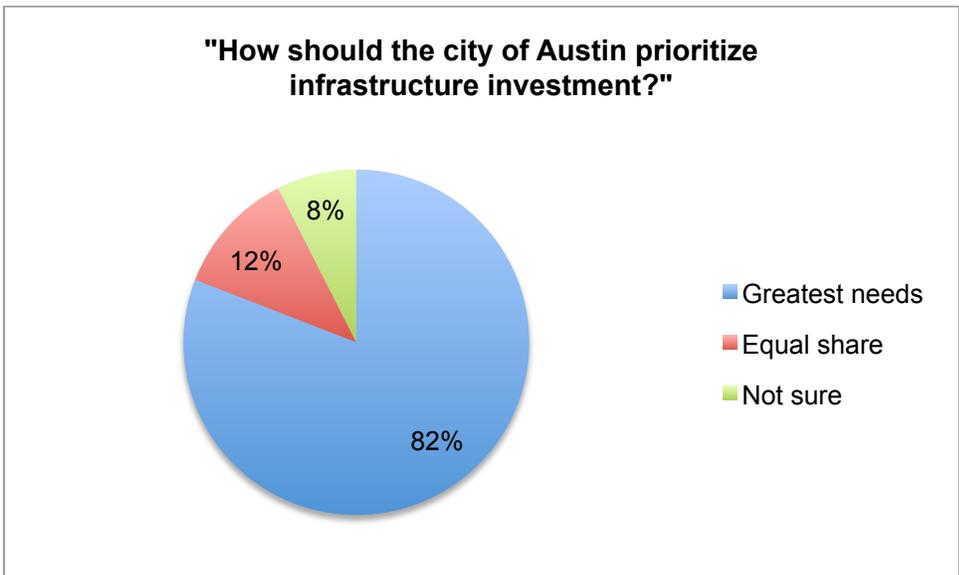
By Reported Income

When broken down by reported income, respondents differed in their answers. The most notable contrasts were between individuals reporting an annual household income between 0-$30,000 and individuals reporting an annual household income of greater than $100,000[2]. For example, individuals earning less than $30,000 report more large multifamily units in their neighborhoods than do individuals earning more than $100,000[3] (51% versus 37%, respectively).

Household Types in Neighborhood by Annual Household Income (2017)

Item: "What types of housing are in your neighborhood?"	Annual Household Income				
	0-$30,000	$30,001-$50,000	$50,001-$75,000	$75,001-$100,000	>$100,000
Single family (%)*	31 (79%)	34 (83%)	44 (86%)	49 (84%)	53 (90%)
Small Multifamily (%)*	23 (59%)	25 (61%)	33 (65%)	30 (52%)	32 (54%)
Large Multifamily (%)*	20 (51%)	23 (56%)	22 (43%)	21 (36%)	22 (37%)
Other (%)*	5 (13%)	3 (7%)	6 (12%)	5 (9%)	5 (8%)
Not sure (%)*	1 (3%)	1 (2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

*Percentages out of total count for each household income ($n_{0-\$30,000}=39$, $n_{\$30,001-\$50,000}=41$, $n_{\$50,001-\$75,000}=51$, $n_{\$75,001-\$100,000}=58$, $n_{>\$100,000}=59$)
Note: 16 individuals did not report their household income, thus are not represented in these analyses.

Additionally, individuals reporting an annual household income between 0-$30,000 and individuals reporting an annual household income of greater than $100,000 differed on their reasons for living in Austin and/or their neighborhood. The largest contrasts were between amenities (21% versus 53% respectively) and being unable to afford living somewhere else (21% versus 10% respectively).

Item: "Why do you live in Austin/your neighborhood?"	Annual Household Income				
	0-$30,000	$30,001-$50,000	$50,001-$75,000	$75,001-$100,000	>$100,000
Amenities (%)*	34 (87%)	32 (78%)	42 (82%)	53 (91%)	46 (78%)
I can't afford to live somewhere else (%)*	24 (62%)	27 (66%)	29 (57%)	37 (64%)	29 (49%)
Industrial (%)*	3 (8%)	5 (12%)	7 (14%)	9 (16%)	8 (14%)
Agricultural (%)*	3 (8%)	3 (7%)	2 (4%)	2 (3%)	1 (2%)
Other (%)*	1 (3%)	8 (20%)	8 (16%)	4 (7%)	10 (17%)
Not sure (%)*	0 (0%)	4 (10%)	2 (4%)	2 (2%)	3 (5%)

*Percentages out of total count for each household income ($n_{0-\$30,000}=39$, $n_{\$30,001-\$50,000}=41$, $n_{\$50,001-\$75,000}=51$, $n_{\$75,001-\$100,000}=58$, $n_{>\$100,000}=59$)
Note: 16 individuals did not report their household income, thus are not represented in these analyses.

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[2] Due to the small sample of individuals earning less than $15,000 ($n = 9$), the following results combined individuals earning less than $15,000 and individuals earning between $15,001 and $30,000 ($n = 39$).
[3] Follow-up analyses should examine the statistical significance of this finding.

In terms of other land uses, it is less clear how responses differed by household annual income. For example, the largest contrast is between individuals earning between $30,001-$50,000 and individuals earning more than $100,000, with a higher number of individuals earning less than $50,000 reporting institutional uses of land than individuals earning more than $100,000 (66% versus 49% respectively).

Other Land Uses in Neighborhood by Annual Household Income (2017)

Item: "Are there other land uses in your neighborhood?"	Annual Household Income				
	0-$30,000	$30,001-$50,000	$50,001-$75,000	$75,001-$100,000	>$100,000
Commercial (%)*	34 (87%)	32 (78%)	42 (82%)	53 (91%)	46 (78%)
Institutional (%)*	24 (62%)	27 (66%)	29 (57%)	37 (64%)	29 (49%)
Industrial (%)*	3 (8%)	5 (12%)	7 (14%)	9 (16%)	8 (14%)
Agricultural (%)*	3 (8%)	3 (7%)	2 (4%)	2 (3%)	1 (2%)
Other (%)*	1 (3%)	8 (20%)	8 (16%)	4 (7%)	10 (17%)
Not sure (%)*	0 (0%)	4 (10%)	2 (4%)	2 (2%)	3 (5%)

*Percentages out of total count for each household income ($n_{0-\$30,000}=39$, $n_{\$30,001-\$50,000}=41$, $n_{\$50,001-\$75,000}=51$, $n_{\$75,001-\$100,000}=58$, $n_{>\$100,000}=59$)
Note: 16 individuals did not report their household income, thus are not represented in these analyses.

When assessing the most important issues facing the neighborhood, individuals who earn less than $30,000 differ from individuals who earn more than $100,000. Most notably when comparing these household incomes, individuals who earn less than $30,000 identified gentrification (46% versus 12% respectively), displacement (36% versus 7% respectively), and homelessness (36% versus 25%) as among their most important concerns, whereas individuals who earn more than $100,000 did not identify those issues as their top most important concerns. Conversely, individuals who earn more than $100,000 identified safety and security (34% versus 26% respectively), and school quality (34% versus 21% respectively) as among their most important issues, whereas individuals who earned less than $30,000 did not identify those as their most important concerns. However, affordable housing was identified as the most important issue among all income levels.

Top 5 Most Important Issues Facing Neighborhood Comparison between 0-$30,000 and >$100,000 Household Annual Income (2017)

Rank	0-$30,000	Count (%)	Rank	>$100,000	Count (%)
1	Affordable Housing	33 (85%)	1	Affordable Housing	42 (71%)
2	Gentrification	18 (46%)	2	Inadequate Sidewalks	30 (51%)
3	Inadequate Sidewalks	17 (44%)	3	Transit	24 (41%)
4*	Displacement	14 (36%)	4**	Safety & Security	20 (34%)
4	Homelessness	14 (36%)	4	School Quality	20 (34%)
4	Transit	14 (36%)			

*Displacement, gentrification, and homelessness tied for 4th most important issue, they are presented in alphabetical order
**Safety and security, and school quality tied for 4th most important issue, they are presented in alphabetical order

Top 5 Most Important Issues Facing Neighborhood by Household Annual Income (2017)

Rank	Issue	Count (%)
0-$30,000		
1	Affordable Housing	33 (85%)
2	Gentrification	18 (46%)
3	Inadequate sidewalks	17 (44%)
4	Displacement	14 (36%)
4	Homelessness	14 (36%)
4	Transit	14 (36%)
$30,001-$50,000		
1	Affordable Housing	36 (88%)
2	Gentrification	24 (59%)
3	Inadequate sidewalks	23 (56%)
4	Transit	19 (46%)
5	Displacement	16 (39%)
$50,001-$75,000		
1	Affordable Housing	45 (88%)
2	Gentrification	24 (47%)
3	Homelessness	20 (39%)
3	School Quality	20 (39%)
5	Inadequate sidewalks	19 (37%)
5	Transit	19 (37%)
$75,001-$100,000		
1	Affordable Housing	51 (88%)
2	Inadequate sidewalks	30 (52%)
3	Gentrification	24 (47%)
4	School Quality	22 (38%)
5	Safety and Security	19 (33%)
>$100,000		
1	Affordable Housing	42 (71%)
2	Inadequate sidewalks	30 (51%)
3	Transit	24 (41%)
4	Safety and security	20 (34%)
4	School Quality	20 (34%)

Texas Appleseed

Most respondents reported that social media is the best way to reach them about information about issues, followed by email.

Item: "What's the best way to reach you or your neighborhood/community with information about issues?"	Total endorsed	Percent endorsed
Social media	188	71%
Email	115	44%
Flyering	81	31%
Door knocking	53	20%
Other	16	6%