

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the City has a variety of needs best addressed by a bond election, including housing, transportation, animal shelter, parks, and other critical needs; and

WHEREAS, the City has long been a national leader on addressing the urgent issue of climate change and is dedicated to comprehensively addressing climate; and

WHEREAS, the City values community input regarding bond initiatives and initiatives that should be part of a climate program and has initiated and completed several studies to identify City service needs in the past before going to the voters with a bond initiative; and

WHEREAS, the City has previously based bond election packages on recommendations provided by community and stakeholder input, and Council will establish a bond election advisory task force (Task Force) to inform the creation of a comprehensive bond package; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force shall serve as a critical source of community engagement, while delivering a thoughtful and deliberate bond consideration process; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force will consider current and future planned projects as well as past bond considerations when recommending a comprehensive bond package. Such considerations may include multimodal mobility infrastructure, water and wastewater infrastructure, parks, and other items determined by the Task Force in consultation with City Staff; and

24 **WHEREAS**, the Task Force shall be comprised of relevant stakeholders and
25 engaged community members as determined by council at a later date; and

26 **WHEREAS**, the Task force shall abide by and be subject to the provisions
27 of § 2-1-24 of City Code "Conflict of Interest and Recusal" and § 2-1-21(C) of City
28 Code "Eligibility Requirements and Removal," and not be the staff or board
29 member of an organization that has received bond funding in the past two
30 comprehensive bond packages; and

31 **WHEREAS**, an overall comprehensive bond program should include a
32 climate proposition as a component; and

33 **WHEREAS**, a comprehensive climate program will necessarily need to
34 include a climate bond proposition; and

35 **WHEREAS**, the City wants a comprehensive, model climate program both
36 in outcomes that benefit Austinites and in the method by which the program is
37 created to assure credibility and successful outcomes; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

38 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:**

39 The City Manager is directed to schedule and conduct public briefings as
40 needed to be presented to Council to provide information regarding the City's
41 current bonded indebtedness and bond ratings for the purpose of planning future
42 bond proposals.

43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

44 The City Manager is directed to bring to Council two items: 1) a
45 comprehensive bond package that funds and addresses climate, infrastructure, and

any other public improvements for the purpose of conducting an election no later than November 2026, and 2) a comprehensive climate implementation program of which one component is a climate bond proposition contained in the comprehensive bond package.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager, as a part of the comprehensive climate implementation program, shall provide a detailed and thorough means for investing in our climate. These means should include, but not be limited to, land acquisition that can achieve multiple goals, water conservation that accelerates and expands Austin Waters five-year plans, tree planting, heat resilient and other green infrastructure, local solar and battery storage, capital projects that reduce emissions from concrete and other sources, flood mitigation, charging infrastructure to advance decarbonization of City vehicles and high-emissions equipment, and sustainability and resilience of City facilities to reduce water usage and provide resilience to extreme temperatures. This implementation program should build on and implement previous recommendations, including, but not limited to the:

- Environmental Investment Plan,
- Joint Sustainability Committee Report,
- Austin Climate Equity Plan,
- Water Forward,
- Watershed Protection Strategic Plan,
- One Austin: The Climate Resilience Action Plan,
- Austin Strategic Mobility Plan,
- Austin Energy Resource, Generation, and Climate Protection Plan,

- Austin Strategic Mobility Plan,
- Austin Strategic Housing Blueprint,
- Austin Travis County Food Plan,
- Parks and Recreation Department's Long Range Plan and Land Management Plan,
- Austin-Travis County Community Wildfire Protection Plan,
- Urban Forest Plan,
- Heat Resilience Playbook, and
- Collaborative County-City initiatives like the North East Planning District.

Funding for this implementation program shall not be limited to general obligation bonds but should identify other funding mechanisms, including federal grants for sustainability and resilience programs, innovative ways to leverage the City's fee schedules and utilities and enterprise departments, cost sharing with other jurisdictions and entities, and general fund expenditures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager shall provide Council with regular updates on the progress of the comprehensive climate implementation program, relevant community engagement, and steps taken towards including a climate bond proposition as a component of a comprehensive bond election.

ADOPTED: _____, 2024 **ATTEST:** _____

Myrna Rios
City Clerk