



City of Austin

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District 7**

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Item ED1.06 Austin Technology Partnership

This proposal would:

- Invest \$225,000 in continuing the Austin Technology Partnership (ATP) to support technology sector workforce, capital, and market development in Austin.

Technology is an important part of Austin's economy – though it still faces some serious challenges.

- The Austin Technology Council reports the technology industry contributes more than 10 percent of total Austin employment.¹
- However, the sector does face some serious challenges, including impediments to raising capital and workforce development issues. For instance, ATC projects that Austin will need about 2,000 to 3,000 more tech employees per year just to fill new job openings.¹

The Austin Technology Partnership (ATP) is a private-public partnership that takes a data-driven approach to developing Austin's technology workforce, capital, and market.

- City Council partnered with ATC in 2014 to establish ATP as a way to take a data-driven approach to science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education, economic development, and digital inclusion issues in Austin.²
- ATC's main initiatives through the partnership include developing Austin's:³
 - **Tech Workforce**, by researching the resources, challenges, and opportunities facing STEM education in Austin, as well as increasing awareness of STEM education among Central Texas students and parents;
 - **Tech Capital**, by assessing obstacles to investment and tech growth in Austin; and
 - **Tech Market**, by evaluating technology resources, economic activity, and opportunities both citywide and regionally, and showcasing the Austin tech industry to local, national, and international stakeholders.

However, the current budget does not include resources to continue this important partnership.

- The Economic Development Department (EDD) requested continued funding for ATP and recognized the need to expand the partnership to meet growing demand.⁴
- However, the city manager's proposed budget did not include this important investment.

This proposal would restore this partnership and continue developing Austin's tech workforce, capital, and market.

- This proposal would fund the EDD-identified unmet need of \$225,000 for continuing ATP.
- As a public-private partnership, this public investment will be used to leverage a significant private investment in ATP efforts, as well. More than two-thirds of ATP's annual budget is privately funded.³

¹ "Austin Tech Partnership Annual Report," Austin Technology Council Presentation (11 January 2016).

² Resolution No. 20140227-049.

³ 2016/17 Austin Technology Partnership Draft (4 September 2016).

⁴ Economic Development Request #4, FY 2016-17 Initial Funding Requests.