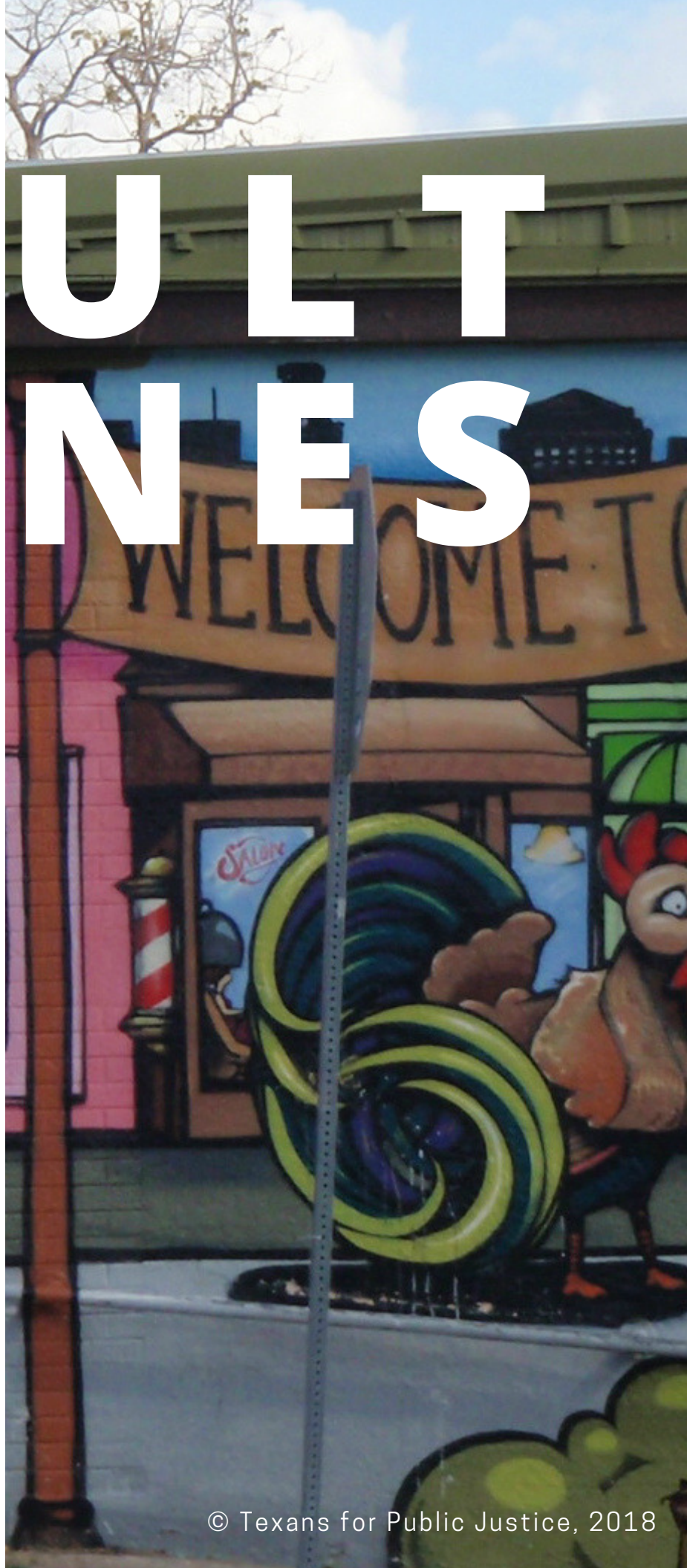


FAULT LINES

CAMPAIGN
CONTRIBUTIONS
EXPOSE AUSTIN'S
ECONOMIC CHASMS

An Equity Austin Report

Research Prepared by
Texans for Public Justice



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Suggested Citation: Texans for Public Justice, *Fault Lines: Campaign Contributions Expose Austin's Economic Chasms*. Austin, TX: 2018.

Database Design & Analysis: Ralph Bussard, Texans for Public Justice
Graphic Design & Analysis: Amanda Gnaedinger, Common Cause



FAULT LINES

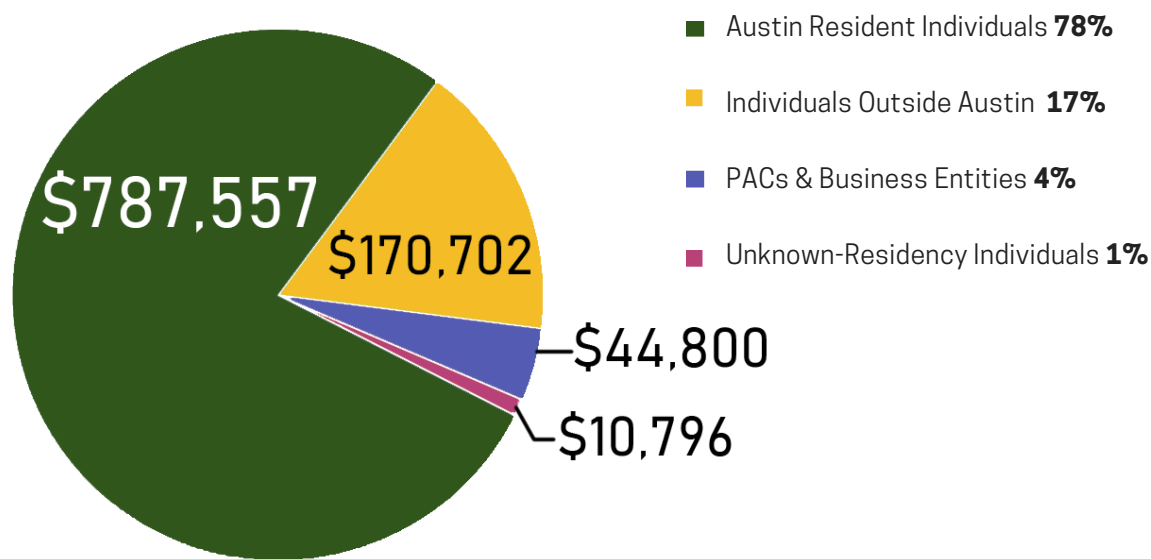
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Austin's Campaign Cash

Sources of 2016 Contributions

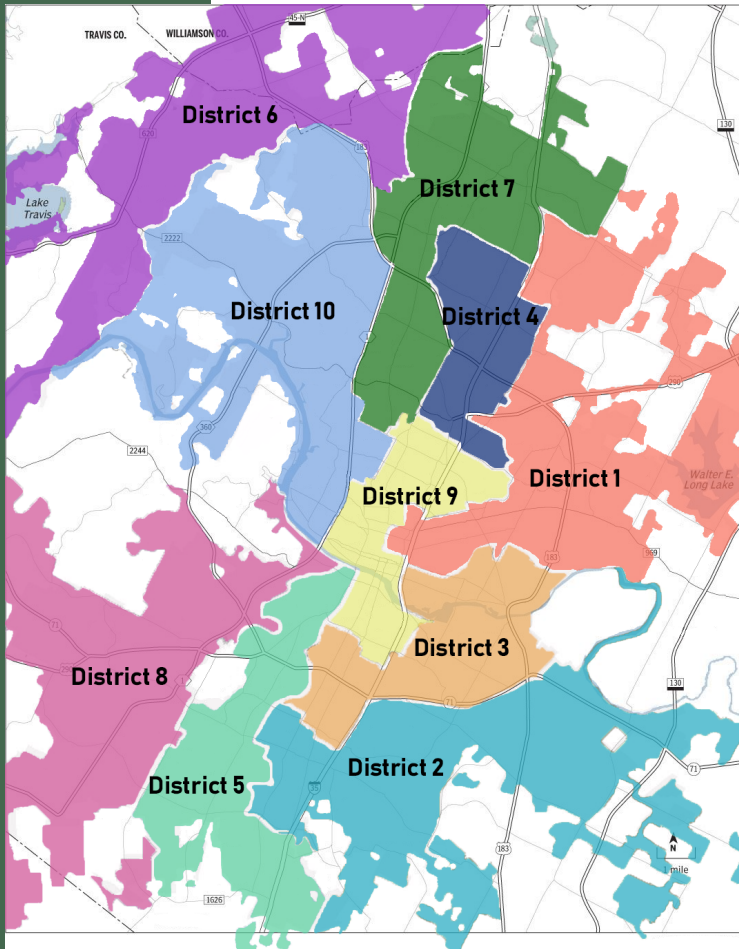
Twelve candidates raised a total of \$1,013,855 to run for five Austin City Council seats in 2016. Individuals living in Austin's 10 council districts supplied 78% of this money, or \$787,557. People outside Austin city limits contributed 17% of the cash, with 1% coming from individuals whose residency was not determined. Candidates took the final 4% of their money, or \$44,800 from political committees and business entities. The following research focuses on the \$787,557 contributed locally by Austin residents.



Austin's three **most affluent and least racially diverse** Council Districts (8, 9, & 10) accounted for 68 cents of every dollar contributed by city residents.



In contrast, residents of the city's four low-income, minority districts (1, 2, 3, & 4) contributed **just eight cents** of every dollar contributed by city residents.



- Individuals from outside Austin's city limits supplied 17 percent (\$170,702) of the total raised by the council candidates. Political committees and businesses supplied less than five percent (\$44,800) of the total.
- The ten Austin council districts produced 3,582 donor households in total.
- Four candidates raised less than \$5,000 apiece; the eight other candidates each raised at least \$46,000.
- Alison Alter, who won a competitive race for Council District 10, received \$64,171 in public funds from the Austin Fair Campaign Finance Fund.
- District 10 candidates Alter and Sheri Gallo were the only candidates clearing \$10,000 who collected at least half of this money inside their own district. Sixty percent of Alter's money came from within District 10.



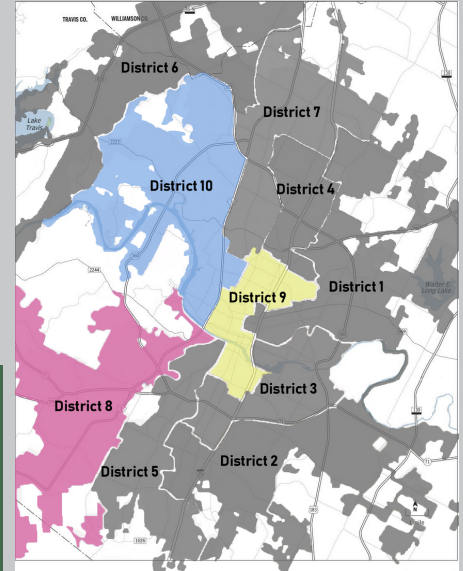
The Great Divide

Residents of Austin's three most affluent districts – Districts 8, 9, & 10 – contributed \$535,007 to all candidates, **68 percent** of the \$787,557 contributed by Austin residents.

- Median family income across districts 8, 9, & 10 is \$109,595, 176% of the citywide median family income of \$62,153.
- Minority population is 28%, the Anglo/white population is 72%.
- The three districts produced 2,727 donor households.

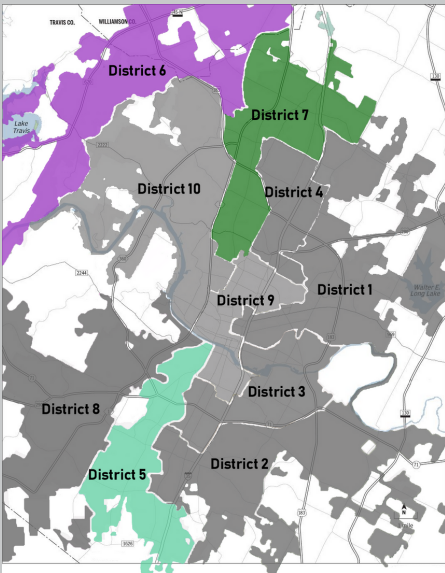
District 10, Austin's most affluent, supplied 44% of money from Austin.

District 10 residents, with a median family income of \$131,100, contributed \$348,345, **seven times the average amount contributed from each of the other nine districts.** Two-thirds of District 10's money (\$232,230) went to District 10 candidates. One third (\$116,565) was sent to candidates in non-District 10 races.



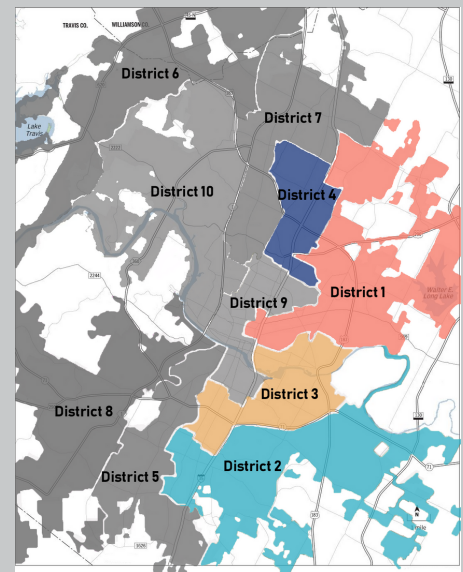
Austin's three middle-income districts – Districts 5, 6, & 7 – contributed \$187,325 to all candidates, **24 percent** of the \$787,557 contributed by Austin residents.

- Median family income across the districts is \$79,150, 127% of the citywide median family income.
- The minority population is 40%.
- The middle-income districts produced 1,078 donor households.



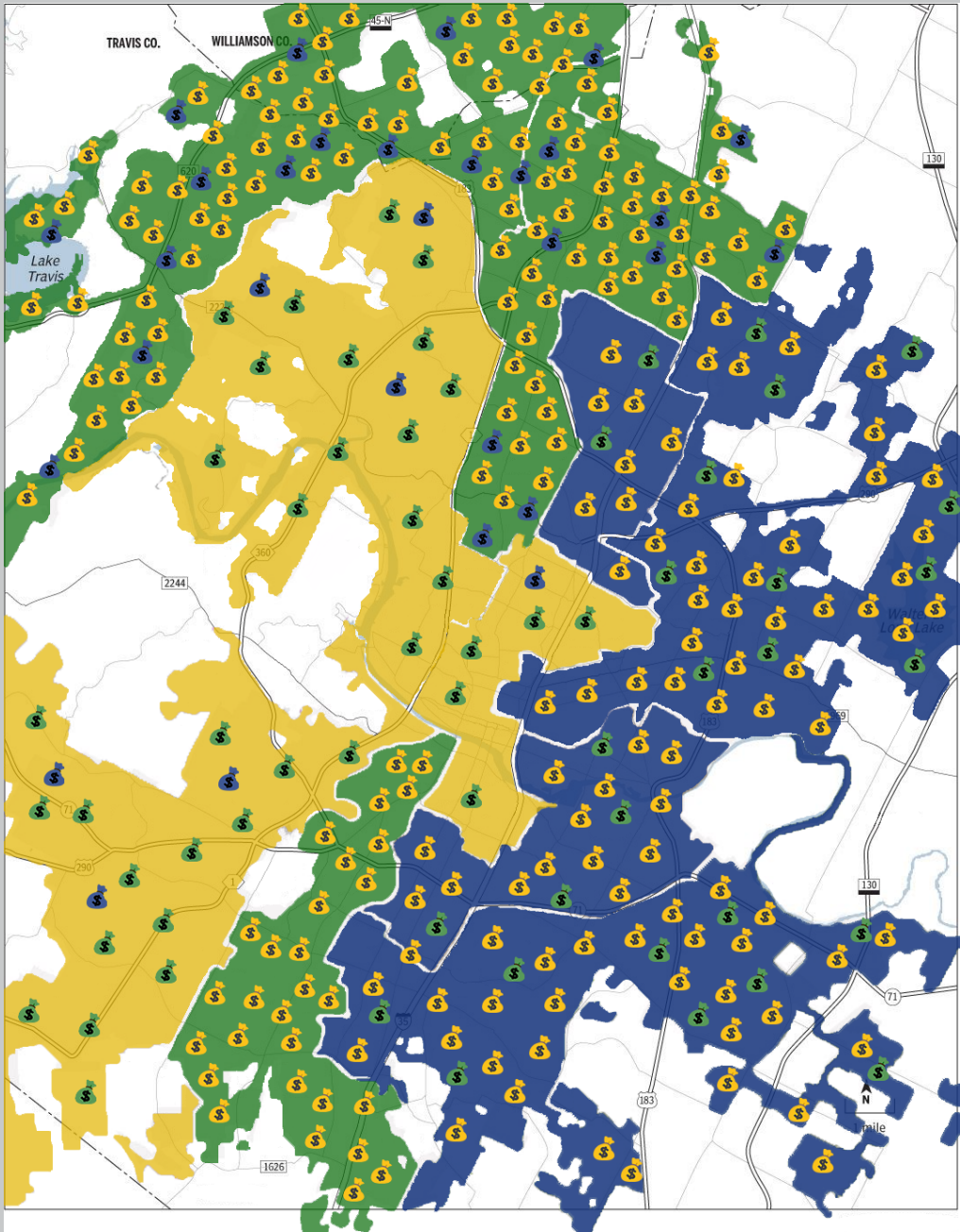
Austin's four low-income, high-minority districts – Districts 1, 2, 3, & 4 – contributed \$66,225 to all candidates, **eight percent** of the \$787,557 contributed by Austin residents.


- Median family income across the four districts is \$40,046, 64% of the citywide median family income.
- Minority population is 76%, compared with citywide minority population of 51%.
- The districts produced 477 donor households.






Contributions from Districts by Income Level to Candidates by District

Contributions from...	Candidates Running in...		
	Low-Income Districts 1, 2, 3, 4	Middle-Income Districts 5, 6, 7	High-Income Districts 8, 9, 10
Low-Income Districts 1, 2, 3, 4	\$34,372	\$23,394	\$7,459
Middle-Income Districts 5, 6, 7	\$26,622	\$125,630	\$35,073
High-Income Districts 8, 9, 10	\$87,078	\$140,129	\$307,800



 = \$1,000

-  D1, 2, 3, 4
-  D5, 6, 7
-  D8, 9, 10

Contribution Comparison by District Income Level

The graph to the right shows how contributions from low, middle, and high-income districts are distributed among candidates.

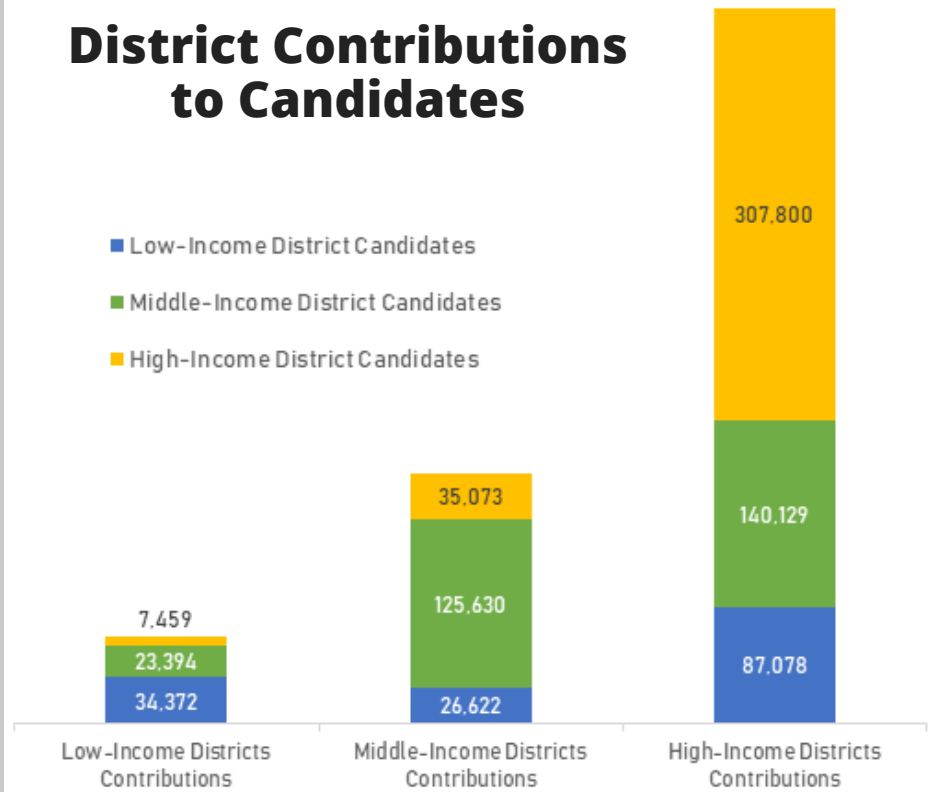
Contributions from high-income districts in total, unsurprisingly, far surpassed contributions from both middle and low-income districts combined.

Middle-income residents contributed most of their cash to candidates running in their own districts.

Low-income residents spent very little, but did spend most of their cash contributing to candidates running in their own districts.

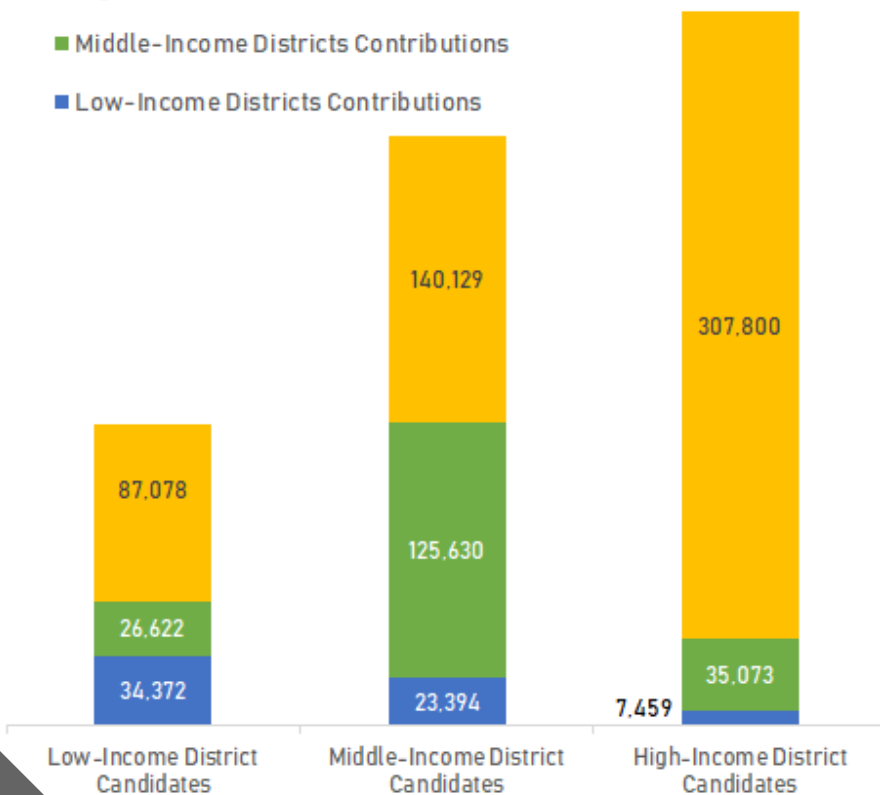
District Contributions to Candidates

- Low-Income District Candidates
- Middle-Income District Candidates
- High-Income District Candidates



Candidate Contributions by Districts

- High-Income Districts Contributions
- Middle-Income Districts Contributions
- Low-Income Districts Contributions

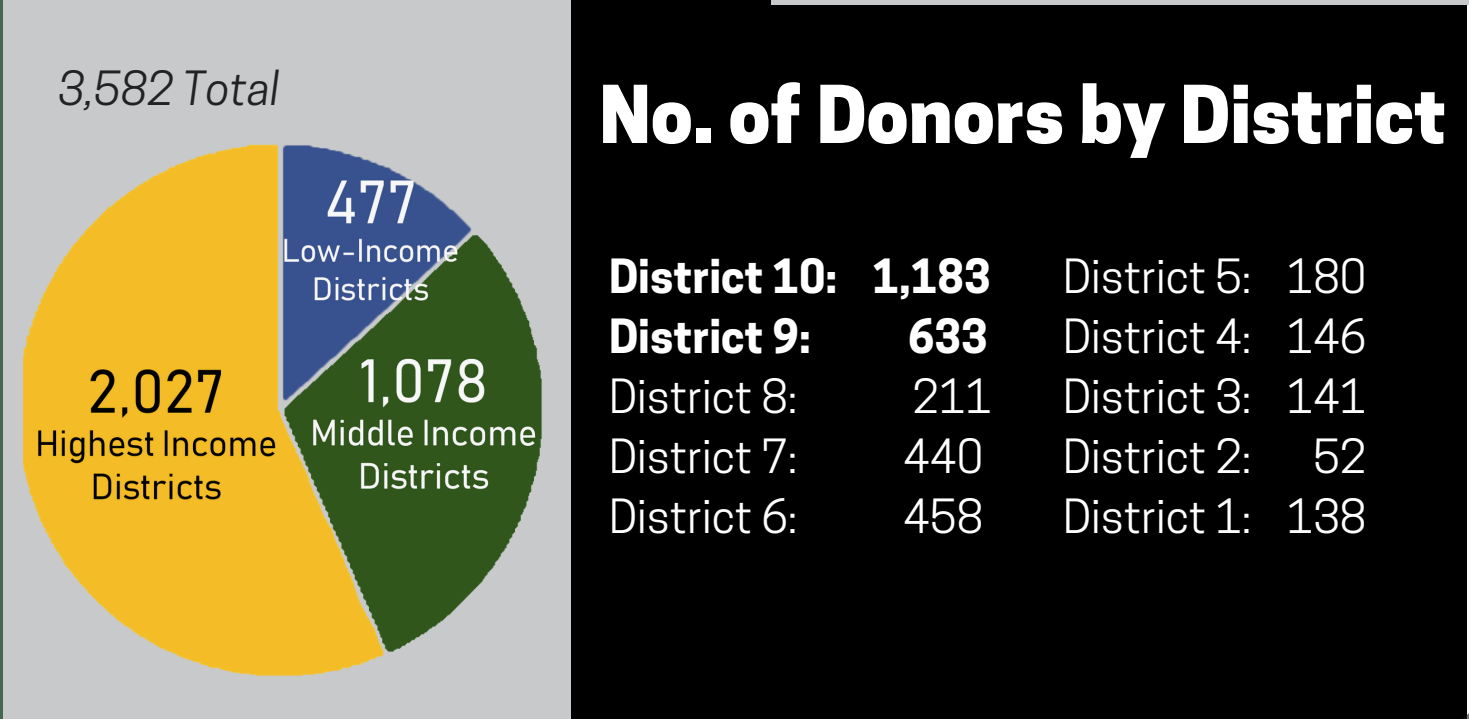
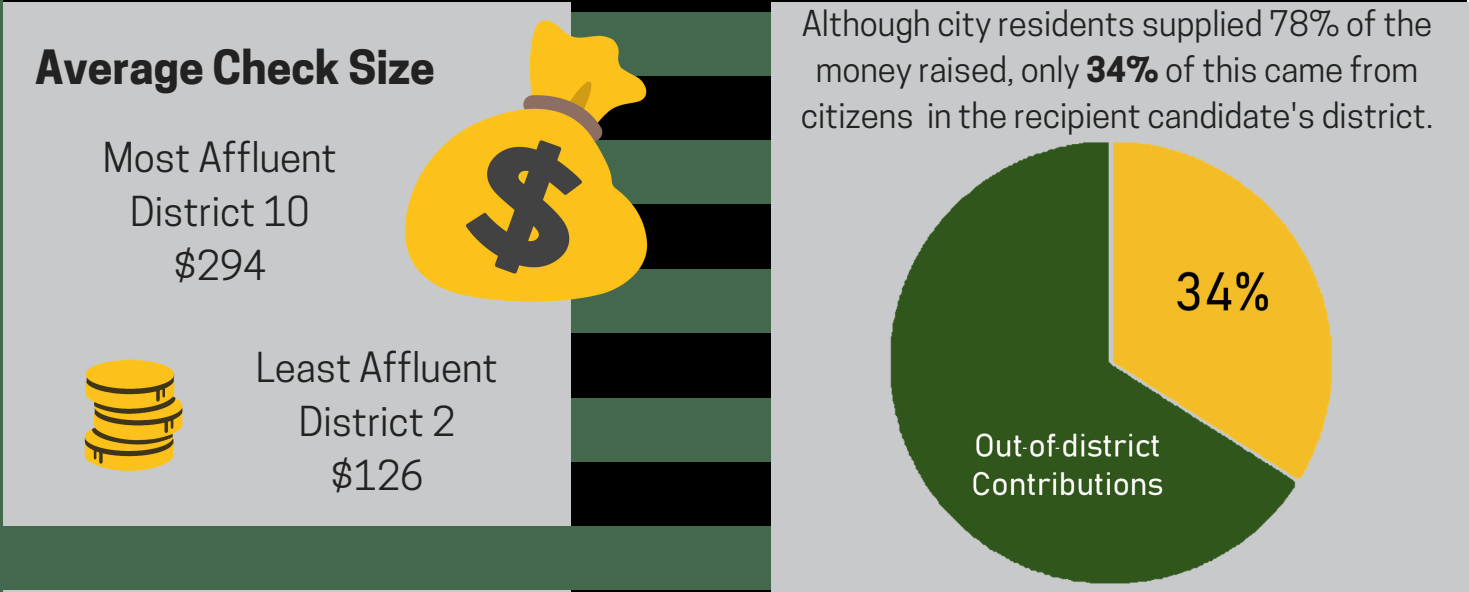
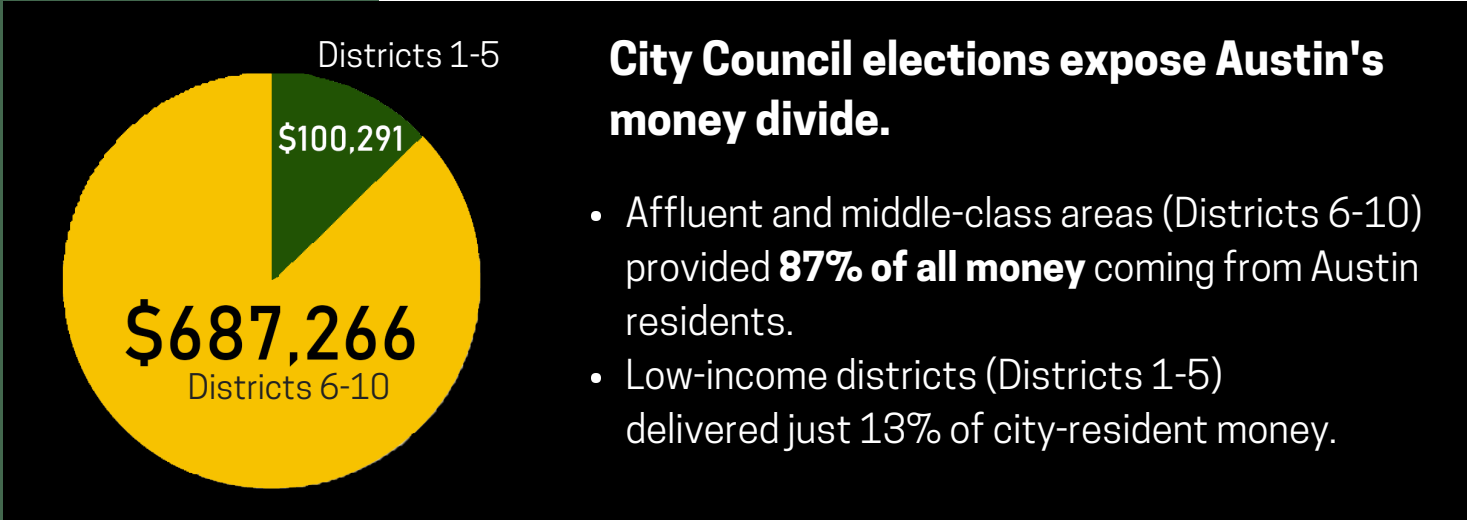


The graph to the left shows where candidates running in low-, middle-, and high-income districts got their money.

Candidates for high-income districts raised, by far, the most money.

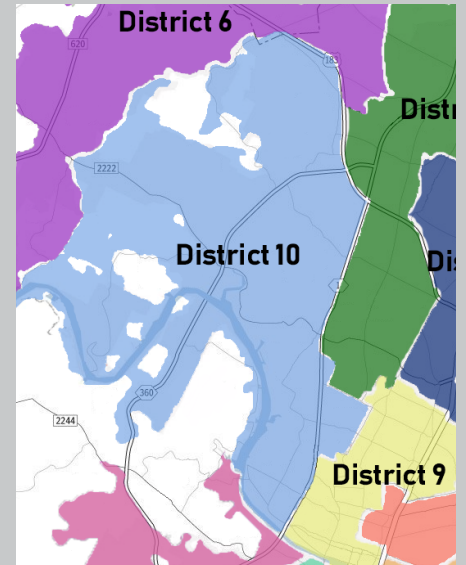
Residents of the three high-income districts were the top source of funds to candidates for high-, middle- and low-income districts.

Austin's Dollar-Divided Districts



City Council District 10 remains Austin's Kingmaker

Residents of City Council District 10
supplied 44% of all money contributed by
Austin residents.



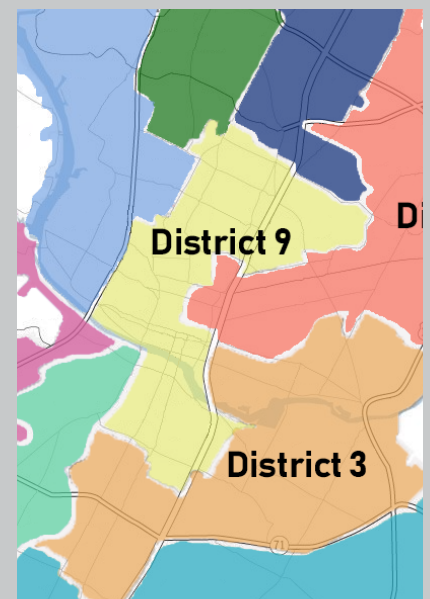
7
**times more than
other districts**

Council District 10 residents gave seven times
more than the average amount contributed by
residents of all other districts.


Council District 10 residents gave two-thirds of
their money to District 10 candidates and the
other third to candidates running in other districts.

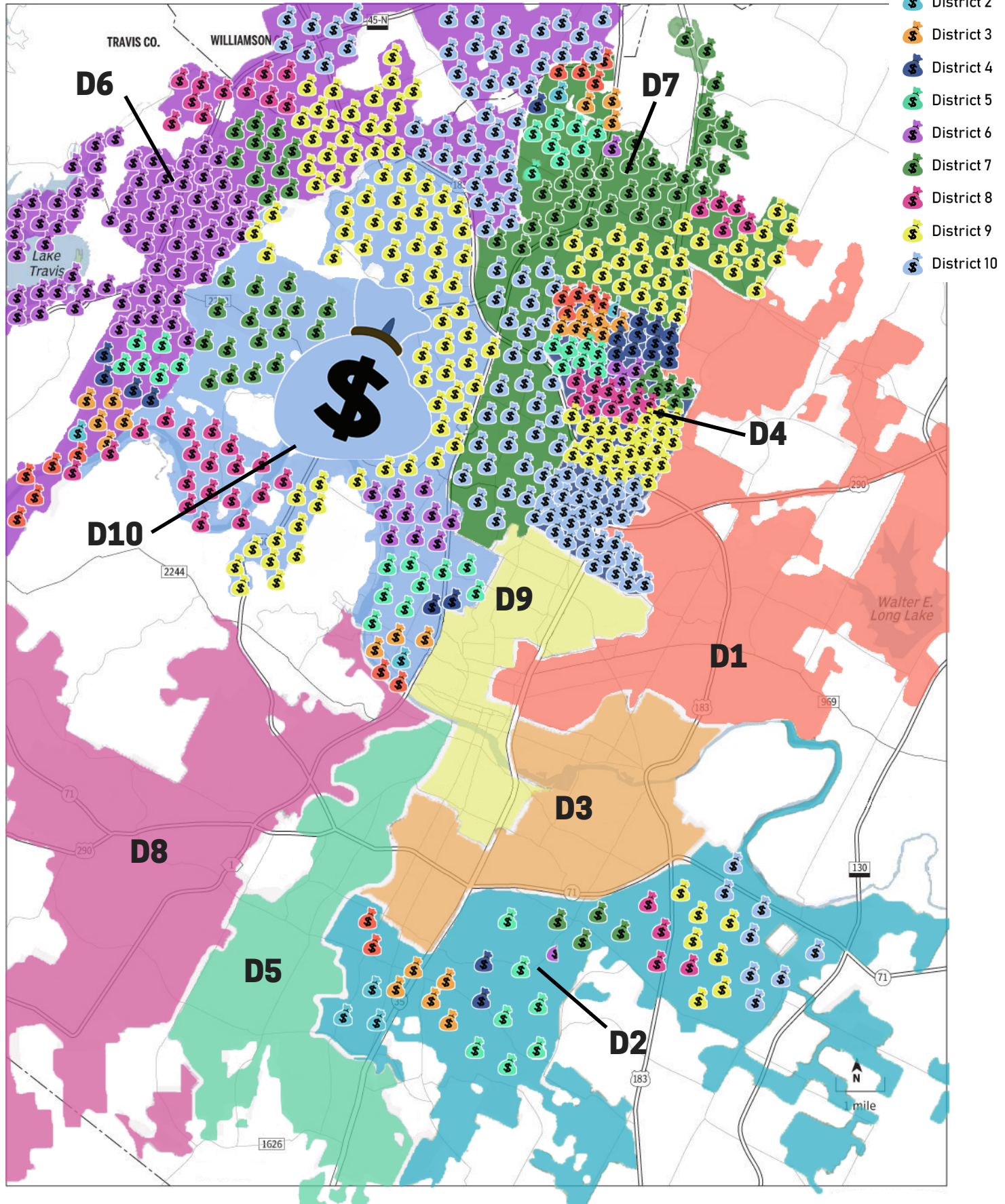
Downtown is Austin's Second in Command

District 9 came in second, supplying
\$138,241 or 18% of the money from Austin
residents. This is significant, given that
District 9 had no election in 2016



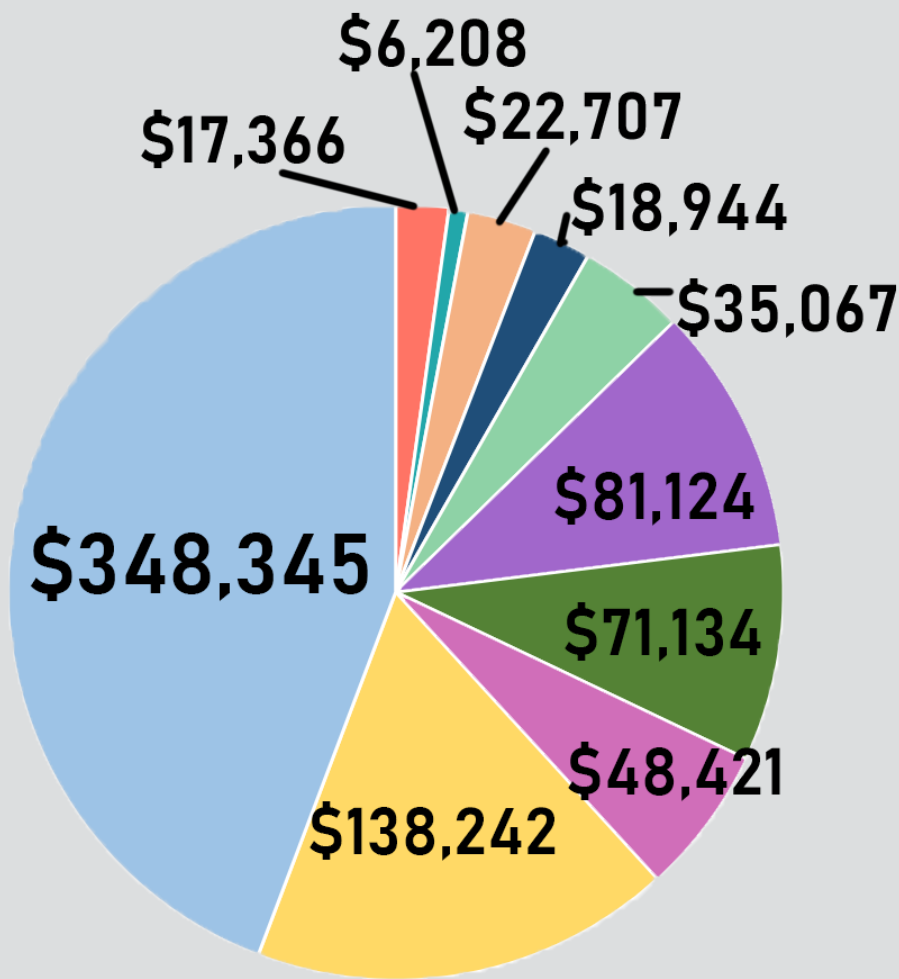
Austin City Limits Money Map

 = \$1,000



*District 10 alone contributed \$232,230 within district, represented here by the fat money bag.

Contributions by District



- Legend**
- District 1
 - District 2
 - District 3
 - District 4
 - District 5
 - District 6
 - District 7
 - District 8
 - District 9
 - District 10

District Contributions

District Candidates

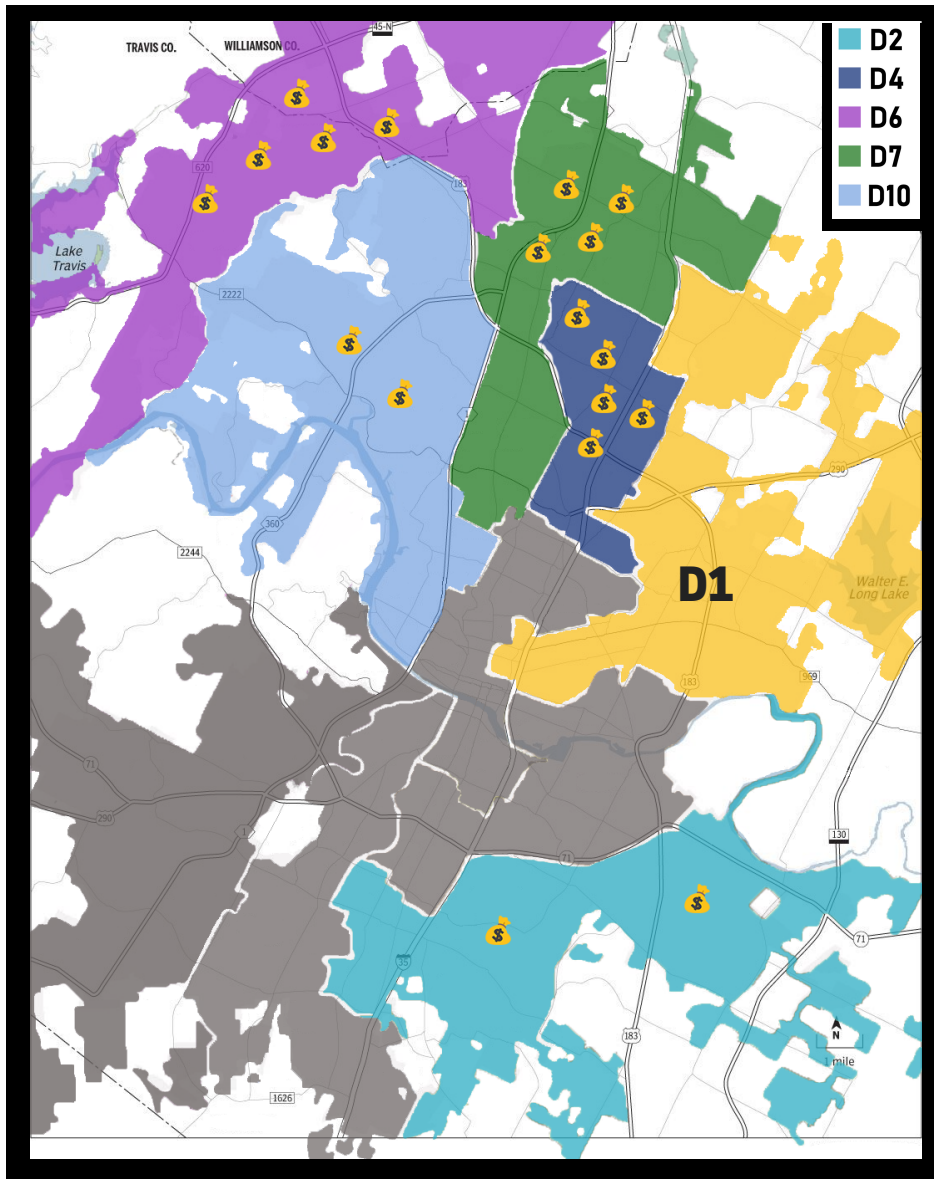
	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7	D8	D9	D10
D2	\$1.880	\$3.055	\$4.577	\$1.615	\$5.700	\$550	\$3.877	\$3.950	\$7.240	\$8.045
D4	\$5.067	\$228	\$6.943	\$11.007	\$6.870	\$3.385	\$6.240	\$10.385	\$25.778	\$31.680
D6	\$5.125	\$1.125	\$4.687	\$3.647	\$6.162	\$66.209	\$11.361	\$10.516	\$21.681	\$45.900
D7	\$3.610	\$1.075	\$3.175	\$950	\$7.575	\$1.210	\$33.113	\$4.570	\$26.973	\$30.490
D10	\$1.684	\$725	\$3.325	\$1.725	\$8.760	\$9.770	\$16.543	\$19.000	\$56.570	\$232.230

DISTRICT PROFILES

Following the Money Trail

District 1 *Where the money went...*

 = \$1,000



Demographics & Election Stats

Median Family Income:
\$42,150

Anglo-White: 23%
African-American: 28%
Hispanic-Latinx: 43%
Other: 5%

Registered Voters: 49,281
Voters in 2016 Election:
No 2016 council election.

Total Contributions : \$17,366
Unique Contributors: 138
Average Contribution: \$126

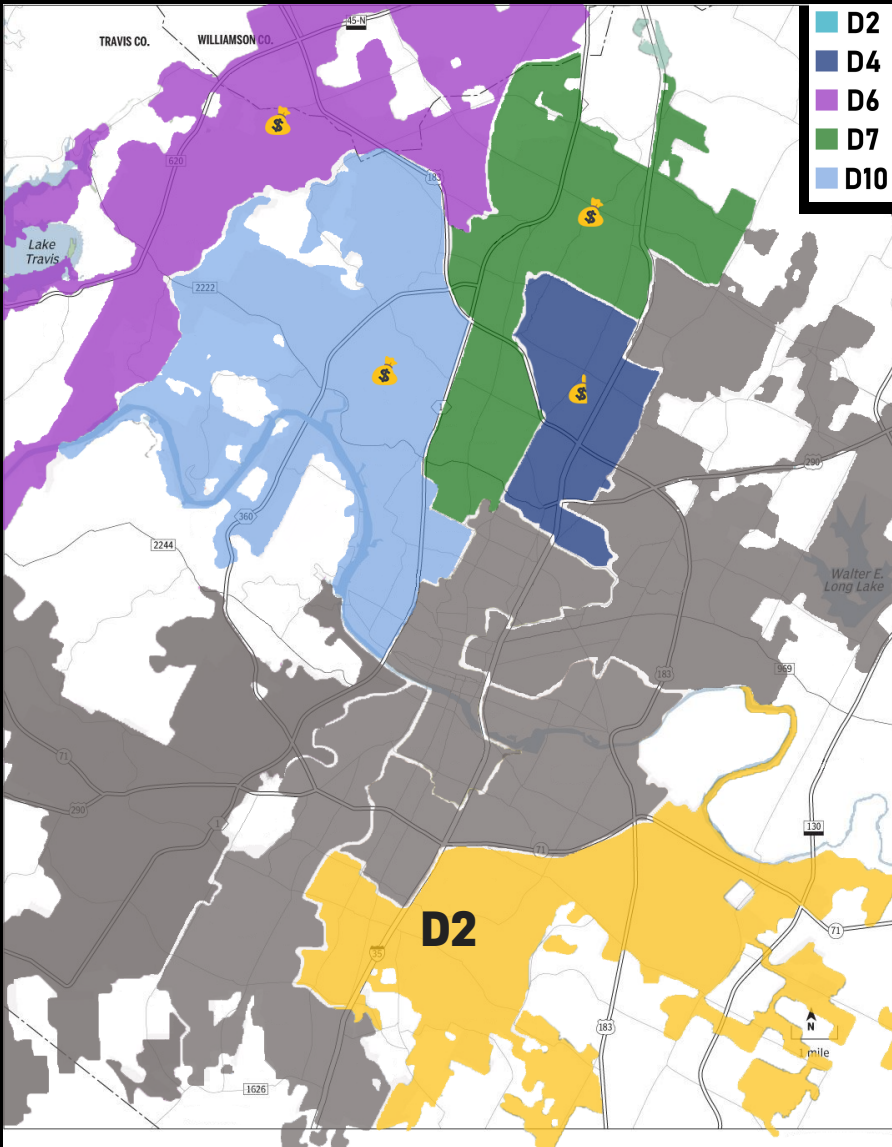
District 1 Contributions to Council Candidates

District 2 Candidates.....	\$ 1,880
District 4 Candidates.....	\$ 5,067
District 6 Candidates.....	\$ 5,125
District 7 Candidates.....	\$ 3,610
District 10 Candidates.....	\$ 1,684

Total Contributions: \$17,366

District 2 *Where the money went...*

 = \$1,000



Demographics & Election Stats

Median Family Income:
\$42,650

Anglo-White: 20%
African-American: 8%
Hispanic-Latinx: 69%
Other: 3%

Registered Voters: 42,252
Voters in 2016 Election:
14,999

Voter Turnout: 35%

Total Contributions : \$6,208
Unique Contributors: 52
Average Contribution: \$119

District 2 Contributions to Council Candidates

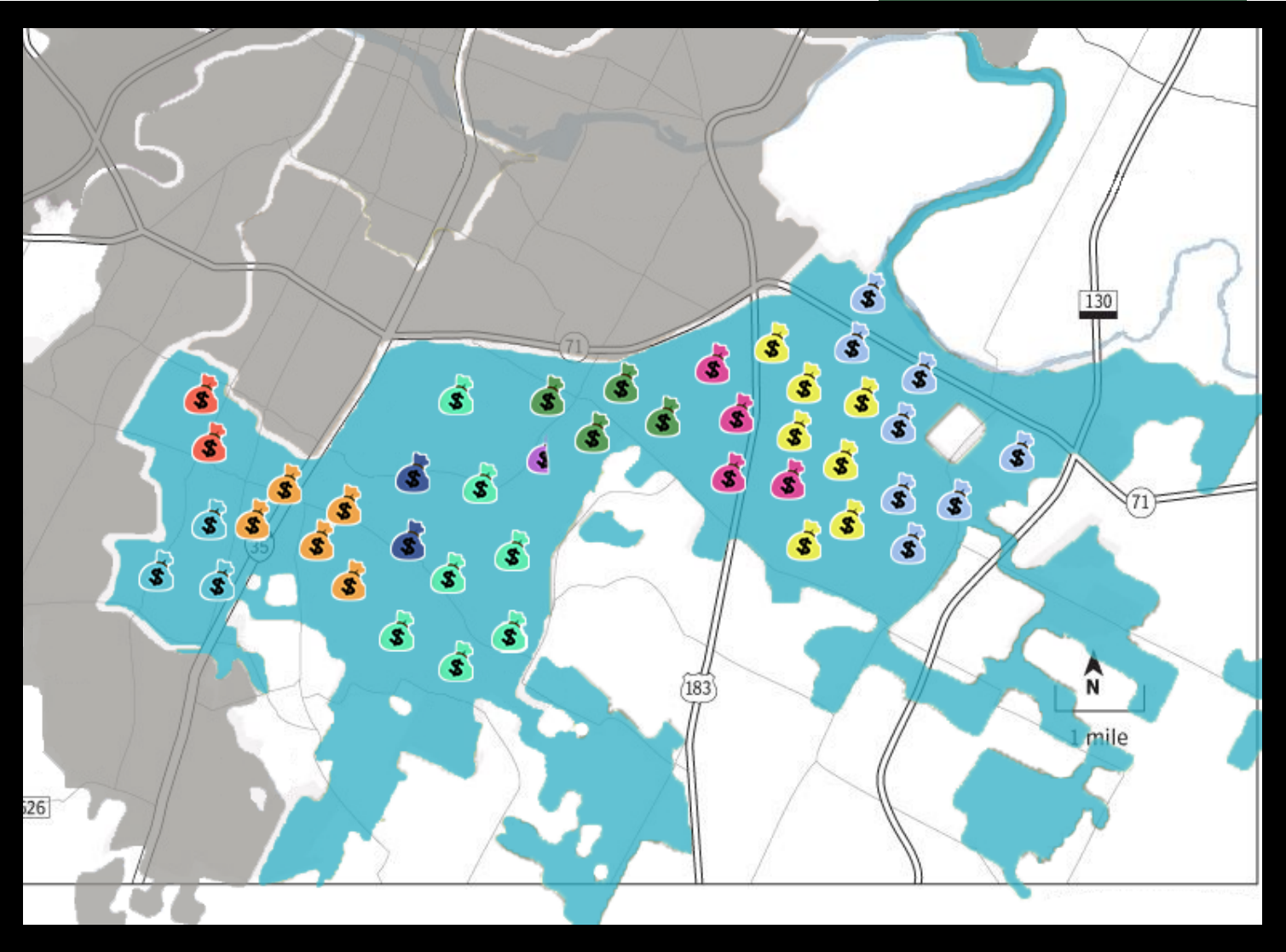
District 2 Candidates.....	\$ 3,055
District 4 Candidates.....	\$ 228
District 6 Candidates.....	\$ 1,125
District 7 Candidates.....	\$ 1,075
District 10 Candidates.....	\$ 725

Total Contributions: \$6,208

Total Amount to Candidates Running within District 2: **\$3,055**
Total Amount Sent to Candidates Running in Other Districts: **\$3,153**

Where the money came from...

District 2



Contributions to District 2 Candidates

District 1	\$ 1,880
District 2	\$ 3,055
District 3	\$ 4,577
District 4	\$ 1,615
District 5	\$ 5,700
District 6	\$ 550
District 7	\$ 3,877
District 8	\$ 3,950
District 9	\$ 7,240
District 10	\$ 8,045
Total Contributions: \$ 40,489	

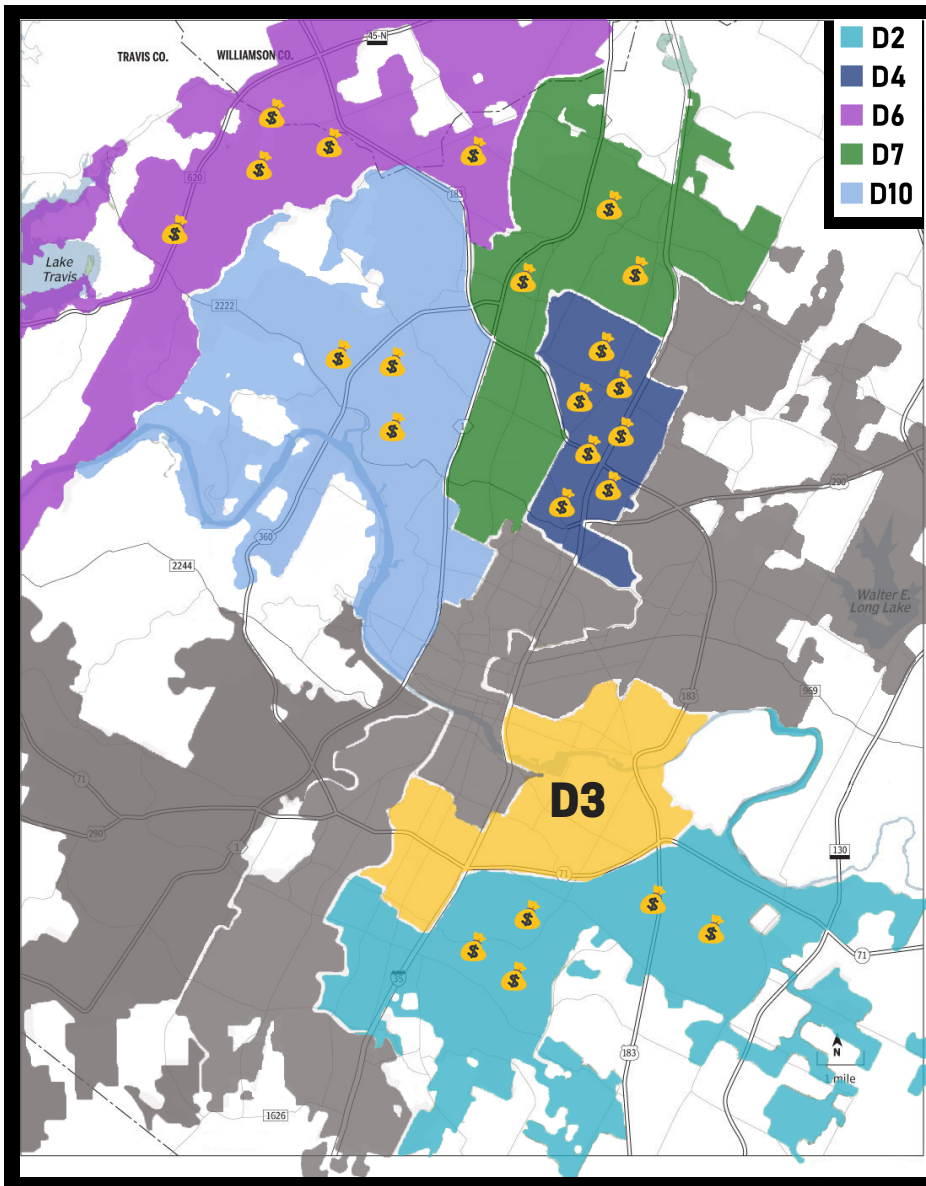
Legend

- District 1
- District 2
- District 3
- District 4
- District 5
- District 6
- District 7
- District 8
- District 9
- District 10

District 3

Where the money went...

 = \$1,000



Demographics & Election Stats

Median Family Income:
\$36,185

Anglo-White: 27%
African-American: 8%
Hispanic-Latinx: 61%
Other: 3%

Registered Voters: 48,593
Voters in 2016 Election:
No 2016 council election.

Total Contributions : \$22,707
Unique Contributors: 141
Average Contribution: \$161

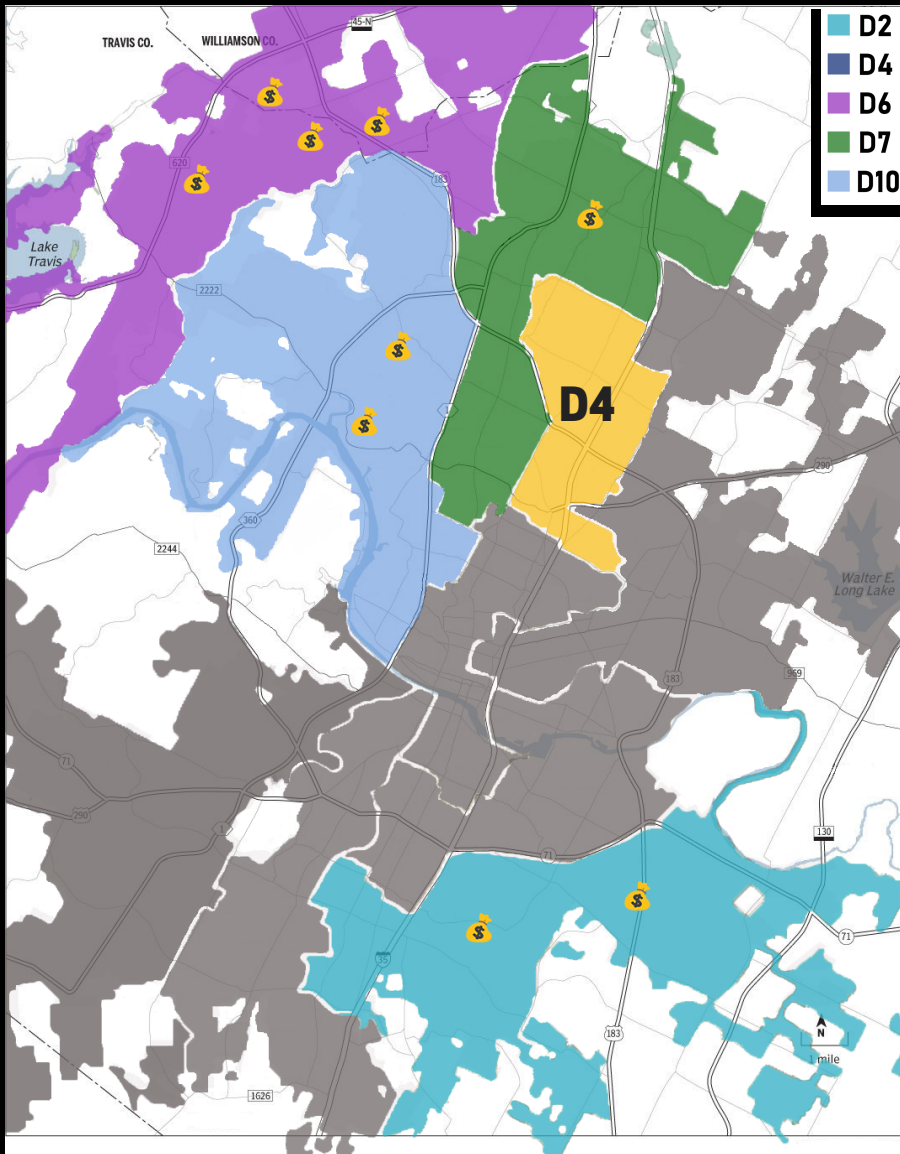
District 3 Contributions to Council Candidates

District 2 Candidates.....	\$ 4,577
District 4 Candidates.....	\$ 6,943
District 6 Candidates.....	\$ 4,687
District 7 Candidates.....	\$ 3,175
District 10 Candidates.....	\$ 3,325

Total Contributions: \$22,707

District 4 *Where the money went...*

 = \$1,000



Demographics & Election Stats

Median Family Income:
\$39,200

Anglo-White: 21%
African-American: 10%
Hispanic-Latinx: 65%
Other: 4%

Registered Voters: 31,360
Voters in 2016 Election:
12,035

Voter Turnout: 38%

Total Contributions : \$18,944
Unique Contributors: 146
Average Contribution: \$130

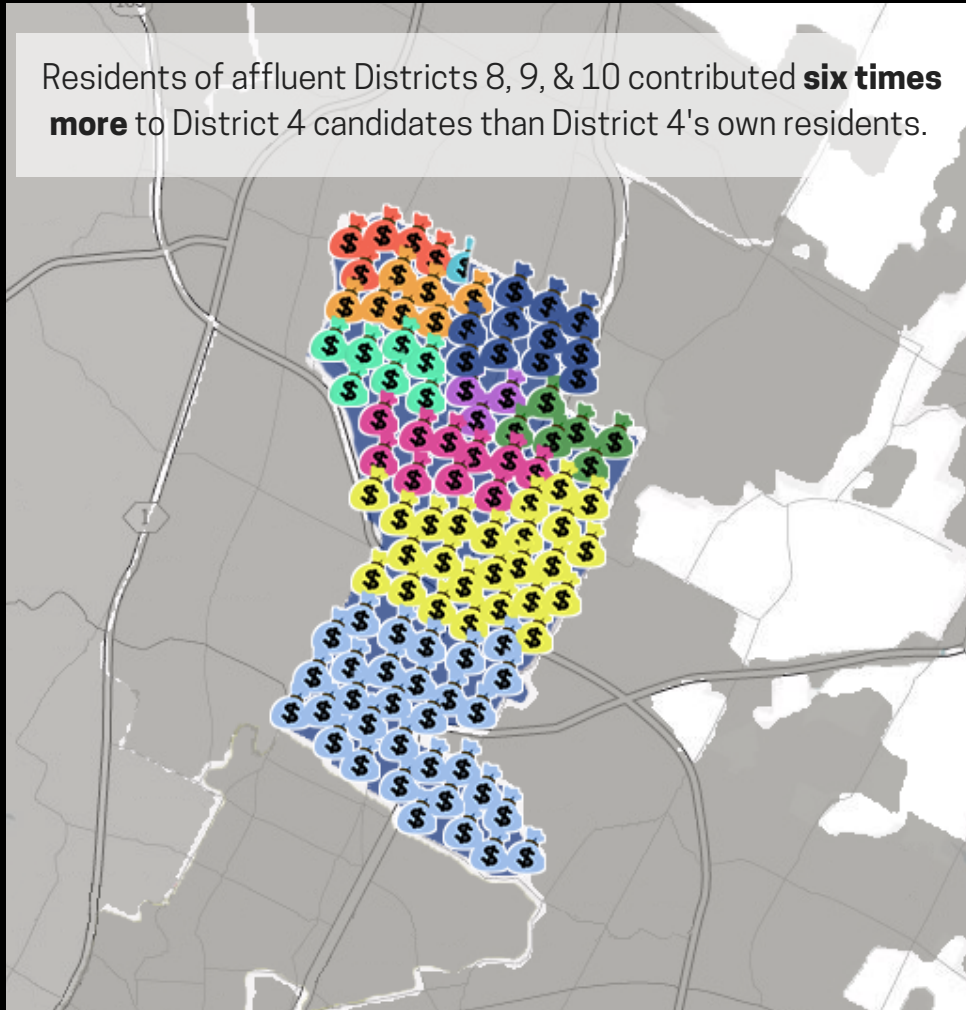
District 4 Contributions to Council Candidates

District 2 Candidates.....	\$ 1,615
District 4 Candidates.....	\$ 11,007
District 6 Candidates.....	\$ 3,647
District 7 Candidates.....	\$ 950
District 10 Candidates.....	\$ 1,725

Total Contributions: \$18,944

Total Amount to Candidates Running within District 4: **\$11,007**
Total Amount Sent to Candidates Running in Other Districts: **\$7,937**

Residents of affluent Districts 8, 9, & 10 contributed **six times more** to District 4 candidates than District 4's own residents.











Contributions to District 4 Candidates

District 1	\$ 5,067
District 2	\$ 228
District 3	\$ 6,943
District 4	\$ 11,007
District 5	\$ 6,870
District 6	\$ 3,385
District 7	\$ 6,240
District 8	\$ 10,385
District 9	\$ 25,778
District 10	\$ 31,680

Total Contributions: \$ 107,583

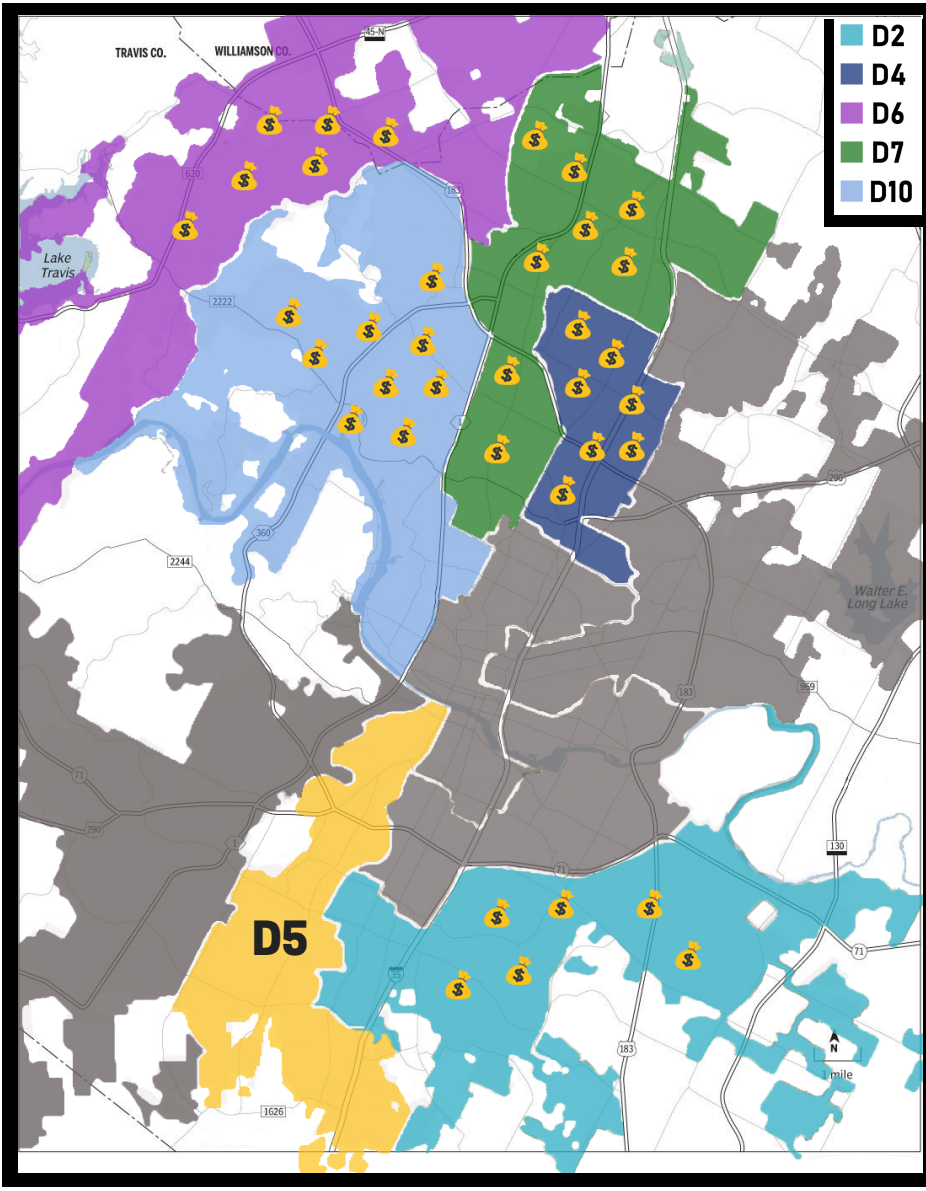
Legend

-  District 1
-  District 2
-  District 3
-  District 4
-  District 5
-  District 6
-  District 7
-  District 8
-  District 9
-  District 10

District 5

Where the money went...

 = \$1,000



Demographics & Election Stats

Median Family Income:
\$77,250

Anglo-White: 60%
African-American: 4%
Hispanic-Latinx: 31%
Other: 5%

Registered Voters: 66,729
Voters in 2016 Election:
No 2016 council election.

Total Contributions : \$35,067
Unique Contributors: 180
Average Contribution: \$195

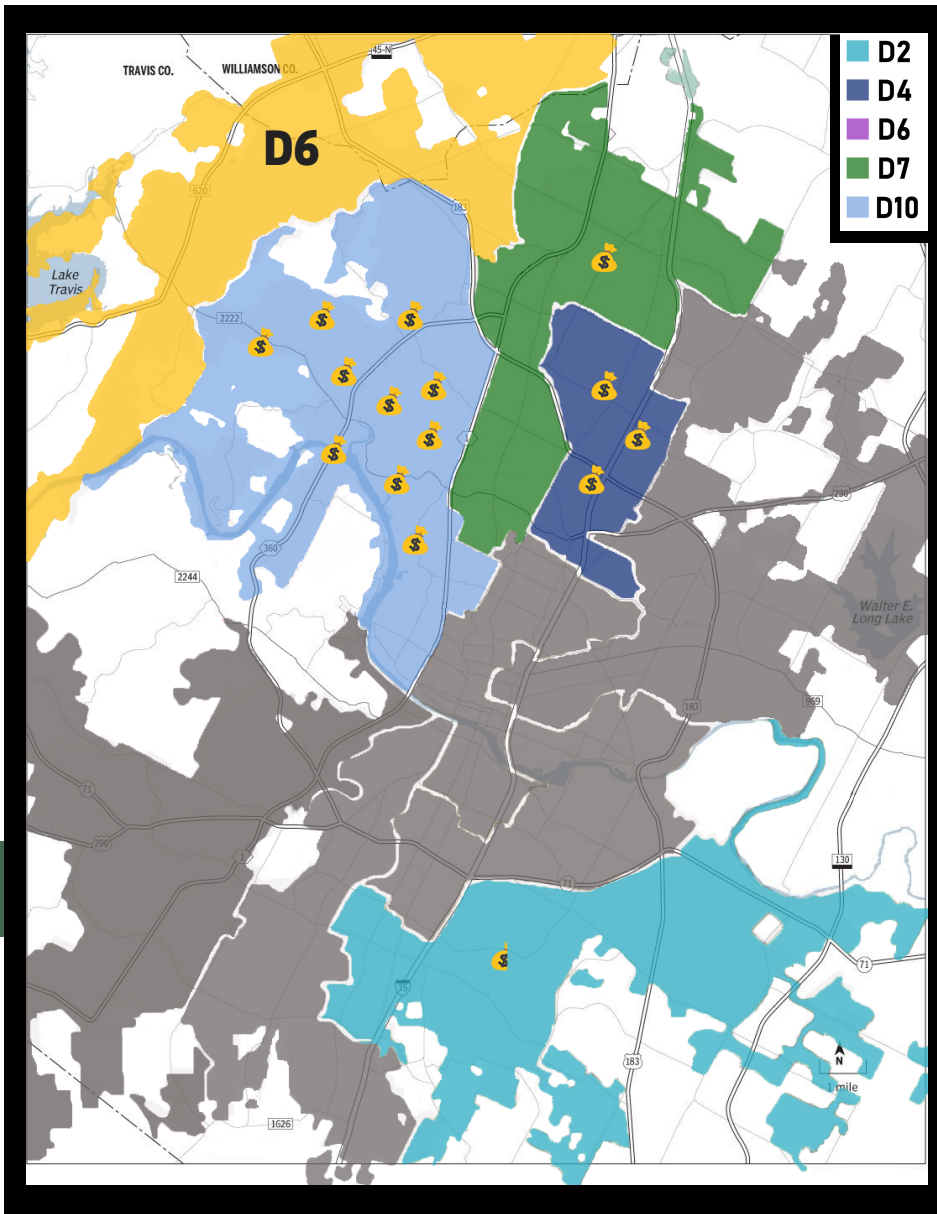
District 5 Contributions to Council Candidates

District 2 Candidates.....	\$ 5,700
District 4 Candidates.....	\$ 6,870
District 6 Candidates.....	\$ 6,162
District 7 Candidates.....	\$ 7,575
District 10 Candidates.....	\$ 8,760

Total Contributions: \$35,067

District 6 *Where the money went...*

 = \$1,000



Demographics & Election Stats

Median Family Income:
\$85,950

Anglo-White: 64%
African-American: 4%
Hispanic-Latinx: 15%
Other: 16%

Registered Voters: 58,442
Voters in 2016 Election:
27,599

Voter Turnout: 57%

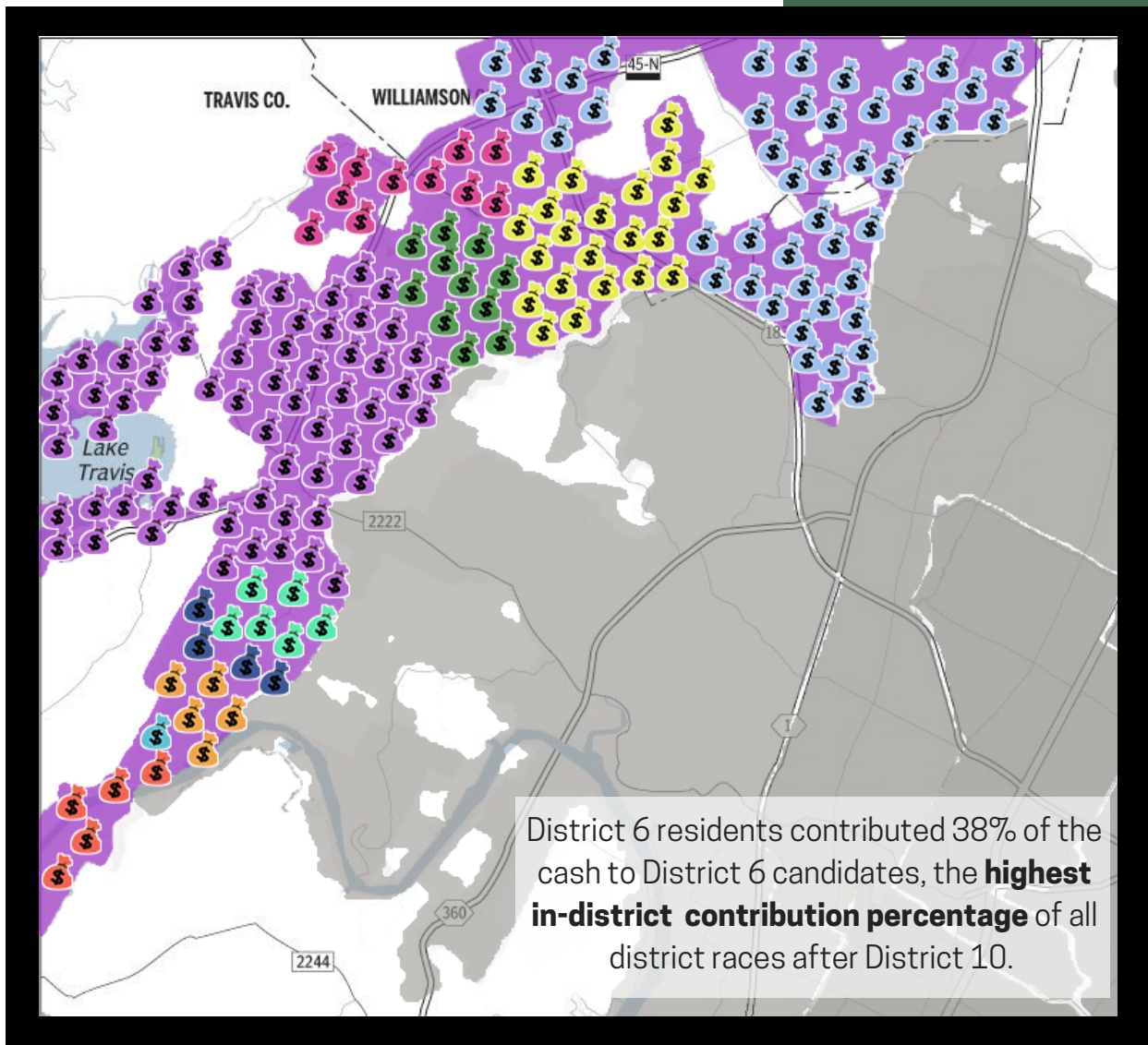
Total Contributions : \$81,124
Unique Contributors: 458
Average Contribution: \$177

District 6 Contributions to Council Candidates

District 2 Candidates.....	\$ 550
District 4 Candidates.....	\$ 3,385
District 6 Candidates.....	\$ 66,209
District 7 Candidates.....	\$ 1,210
District 10 Candidates.....	\$ 9,770

Total Contributions: \$81,124

Total Amount to Candidates Running within District 6: **\$66,209**
Total Amount Sent to Candidates Running in Other Districts: **\$14,915**



Contributions to District 6 Candidates

District 1	\$ 5,125
District 2	\$ 1,125
District 3	\$ 4,687
District 4	\$ 3,647
District 5	\$ 6,162
District 6	\$ 66,209
District 7	\$ 11,361
District 8	\$ 10,516
District 9	\$ 21,681
District 10	\$ 45,900

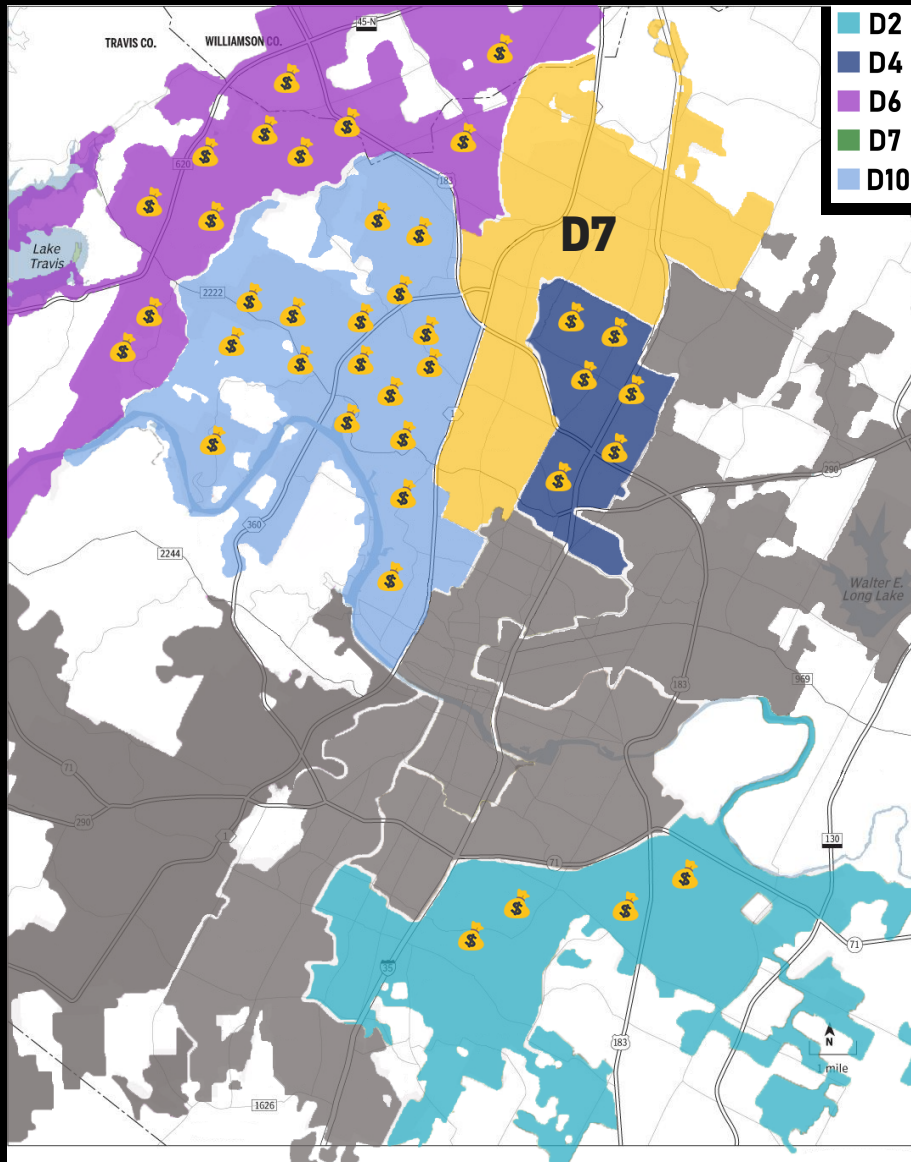
Total Contributions: \$ 176,413

Legend

- District 1
- District 2
- District 3
- District 4
- District 5
- District 6
- District 7
- District 8
- District 9
- District 10

District 7 *Where the money went...*

 = \$1,000



Demographics & Election Stats

Median Family Income:
\$74,250

Anglo-White: 58%
African-American: 8%
Hispanic-Latinx: 22%
Other: 12%

Registered Voters: 60,925
Voters in 2016 Election:
29,757

Voter Turnout: 49%

Total Contributions : \$71,134
Unique Contributors: 440
Average Contribution: \$162

District 7 Contributions to Council Candidates

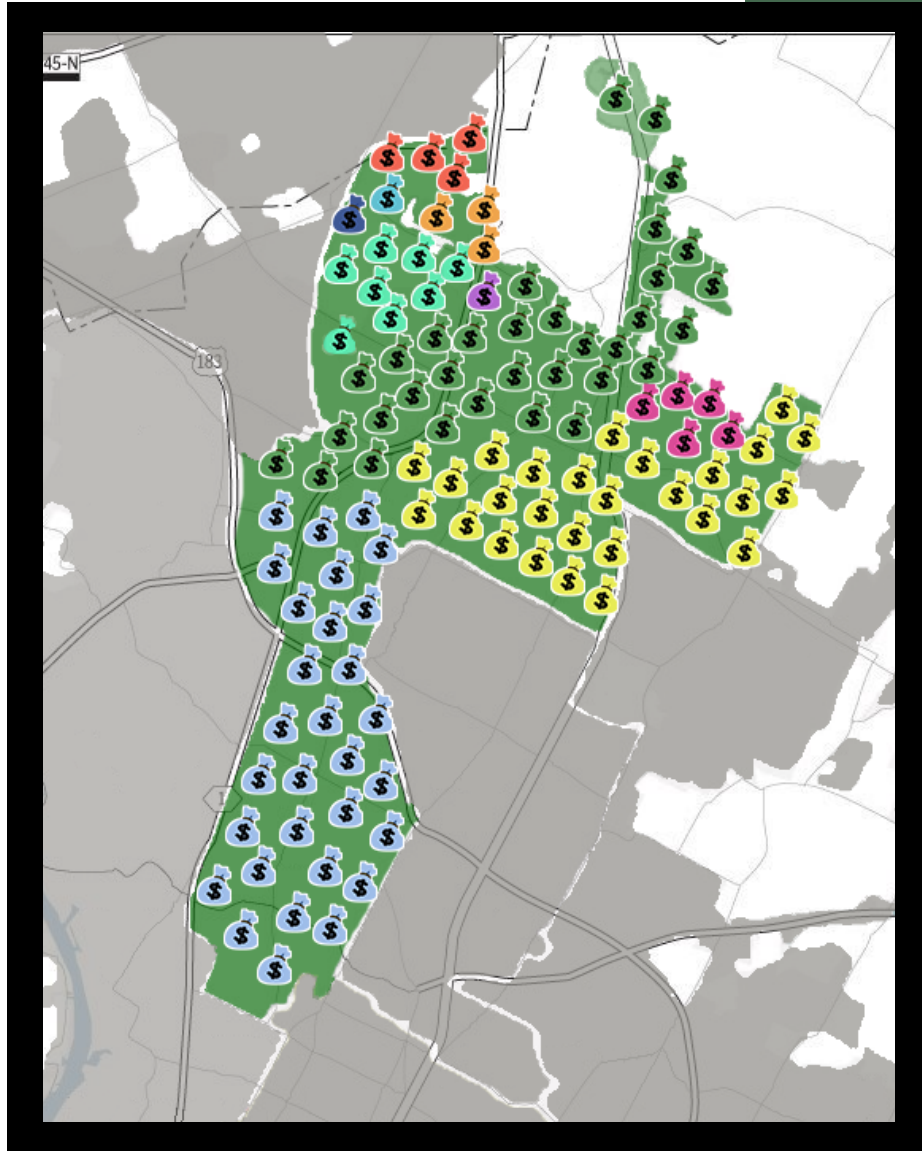
District 2 Candidates.....	\$ 3,877
District 4 Candidates.....	\$ 6,240
District 6 Candidates.....	\$ 11,361
District 7 Candidates.....	\$ 33,113
District 10 Candidates.....	\$ 16,543

Total Contributions: \$71,134

Total Amount to Candidates Running within District 7: **\$33,113**
Total Amount Sent to Candidates Running in Other Districts: **\$38,002**

Where the money came from ...

District 7













Contributions to District 7 Candidates

District 1	\$ 3,610
District 2	\$ 1,075
District 3	\$ 3,175
District 4	\$ 950
District 5	\$ 7,575
District 6	\$ 1,210
District 7	\$ 33,113
District 8	\$ 4,570
District 9	\$ 26,973
District 10	\$ 30,490


Total Contributions: \$ 176,413

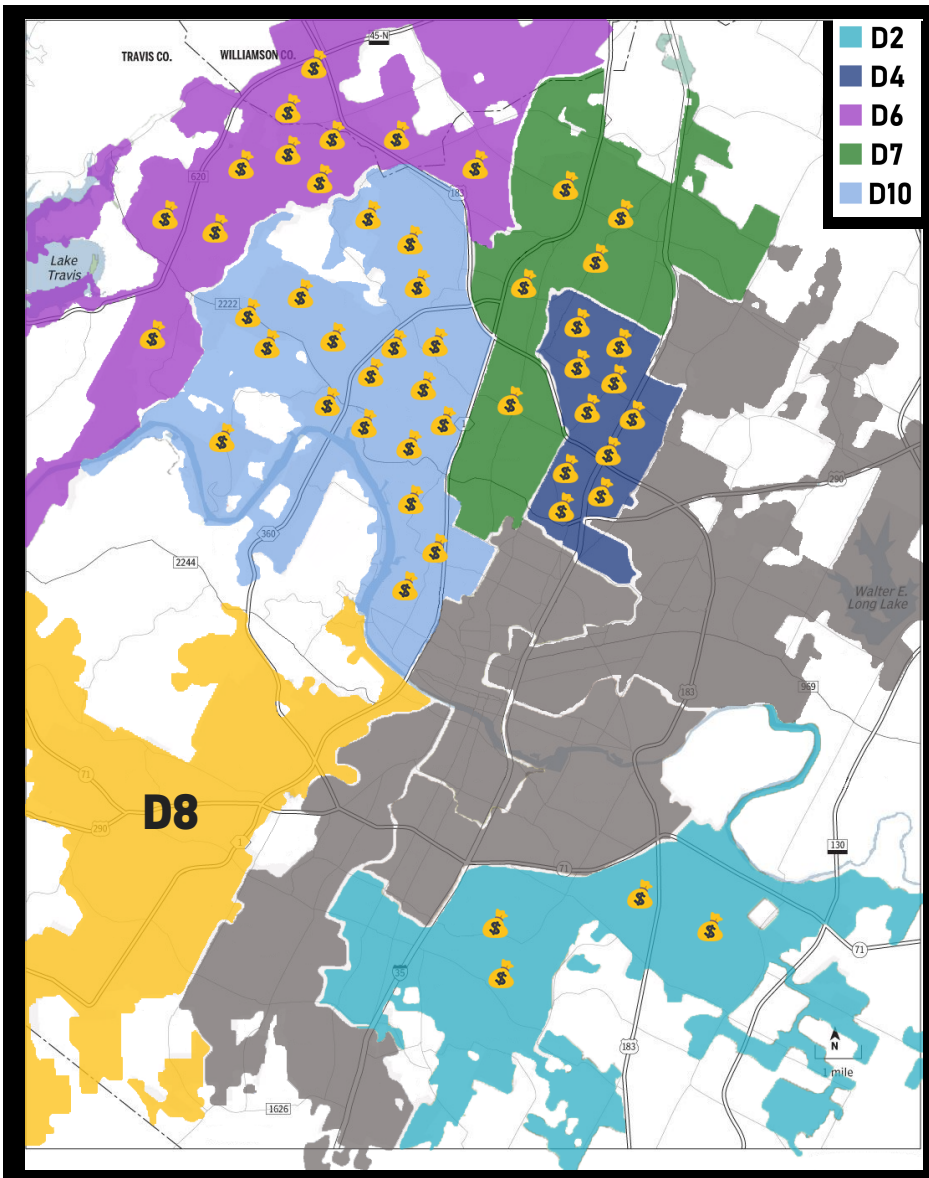
Legend

-  District 1
-  District 2
-  District 3
-  District 4
-  District 5
-  District 6
-  District 7
-  District 8
-  District 9
-  District 10

District 8

Where the money went...

 = \$1,000



Demographics & Election Stats

Median Family Income:
\$116,150

Anglo-White: 70%
African-American: 2%
Hispanic-Latinx: 18%
Other: 10%

Registered Voters: 48,593
Voters in 2016 Election:
No 2016 council election.

Total Contributions : \$48,421
Unique Contributors: 141
Average Contribution: \$161

District 8 Contributions to Council Candidates

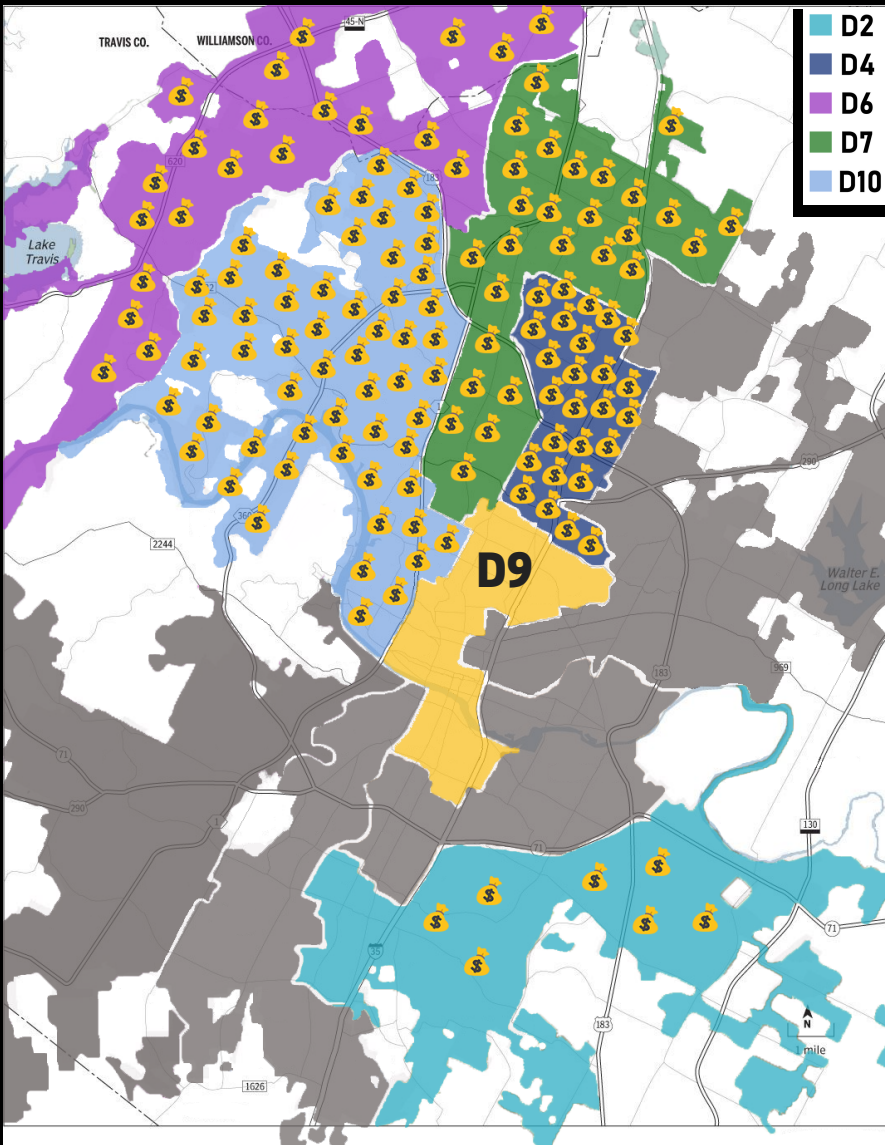
District 2 Candidates.....	\$ 3,950
District 4 Candidates.....	\$ 10,385
District 6 Candidates.....	\$ 10,516
District 7 Candidates.....	\$ 4,570
District 10 Candidates.....	\$ 19,000

Total Contributions: \$48,421

District 9

Where the money went...

 = \$1,000



Demographics & Election Stats

Median Family Income:
\$81,535

Anglo-White: 67%
African-American: 4%
Hispanic-Latinx: 17%
Other: 13%

Registered Voters: 81,484

Voters in 2016 Election:
No 2016 council election.

Total Contributions : \$138,241
Unique Contributors: 633
Average Contribution: \$218

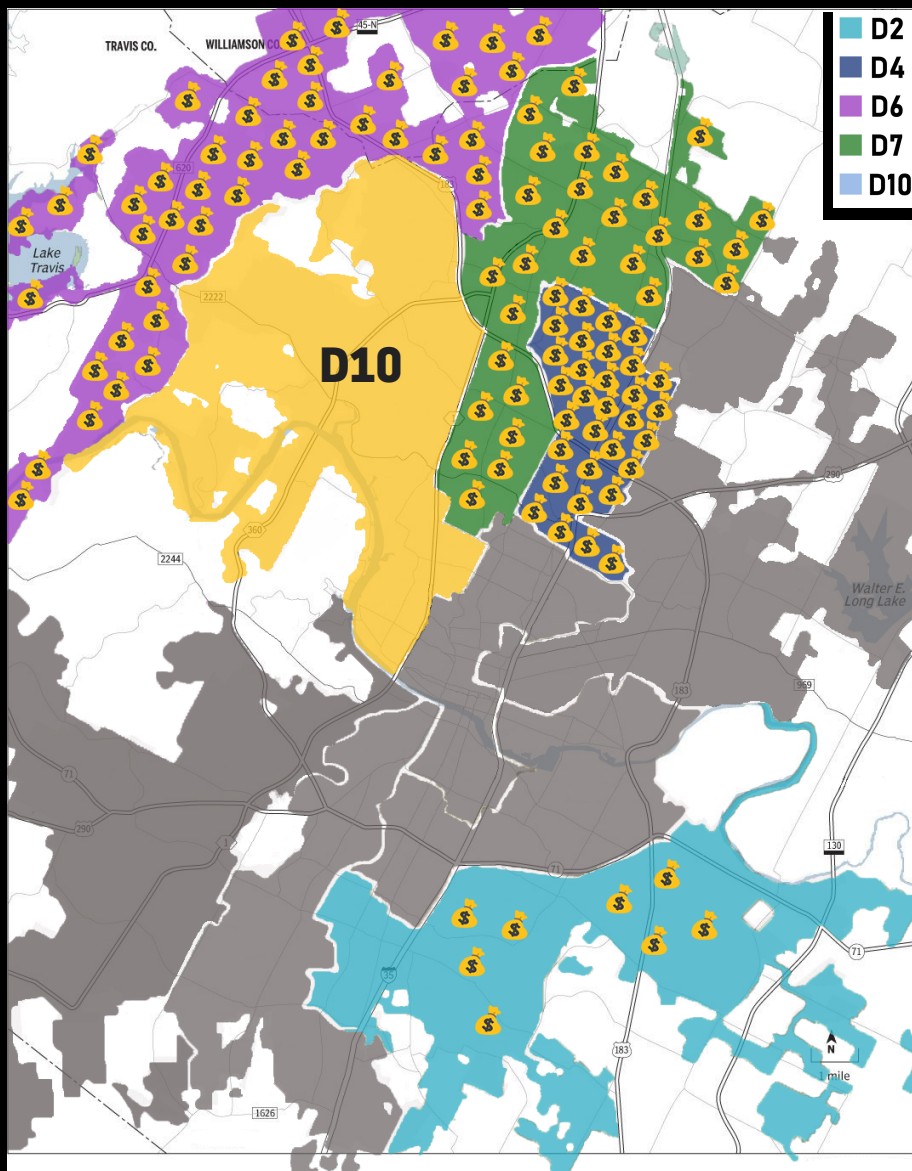
District 9 Contributions to Council Candidates

District 2 Candidates.....	\$ 7,240
District 4 Candidates.....	\$ 25,778
District 6 Candidates.....	\$ 21,681
District 7 Candidates.....	\$ 26,973
District 10 Candidates.....	\$ 56,570

Total Contributions: \$138,241

District 10 *Where the money went...*

 = \$1,000



Demographics & Election Stats

Median Family Income:
\$131,100

Anglo-White: 78%
African-American: 2%
Hispanic-Latinx: 9%
Other: 11%

Registered Voters: 64,863
Voters in 2016 Election:
36,934

Voter Turnout: 57%
December Runoff: 23%

Total Contributions : \$348,345
Unique Contributors: 1,183
Average Contribution: \$294

District 10 Contributions to Council Candidates

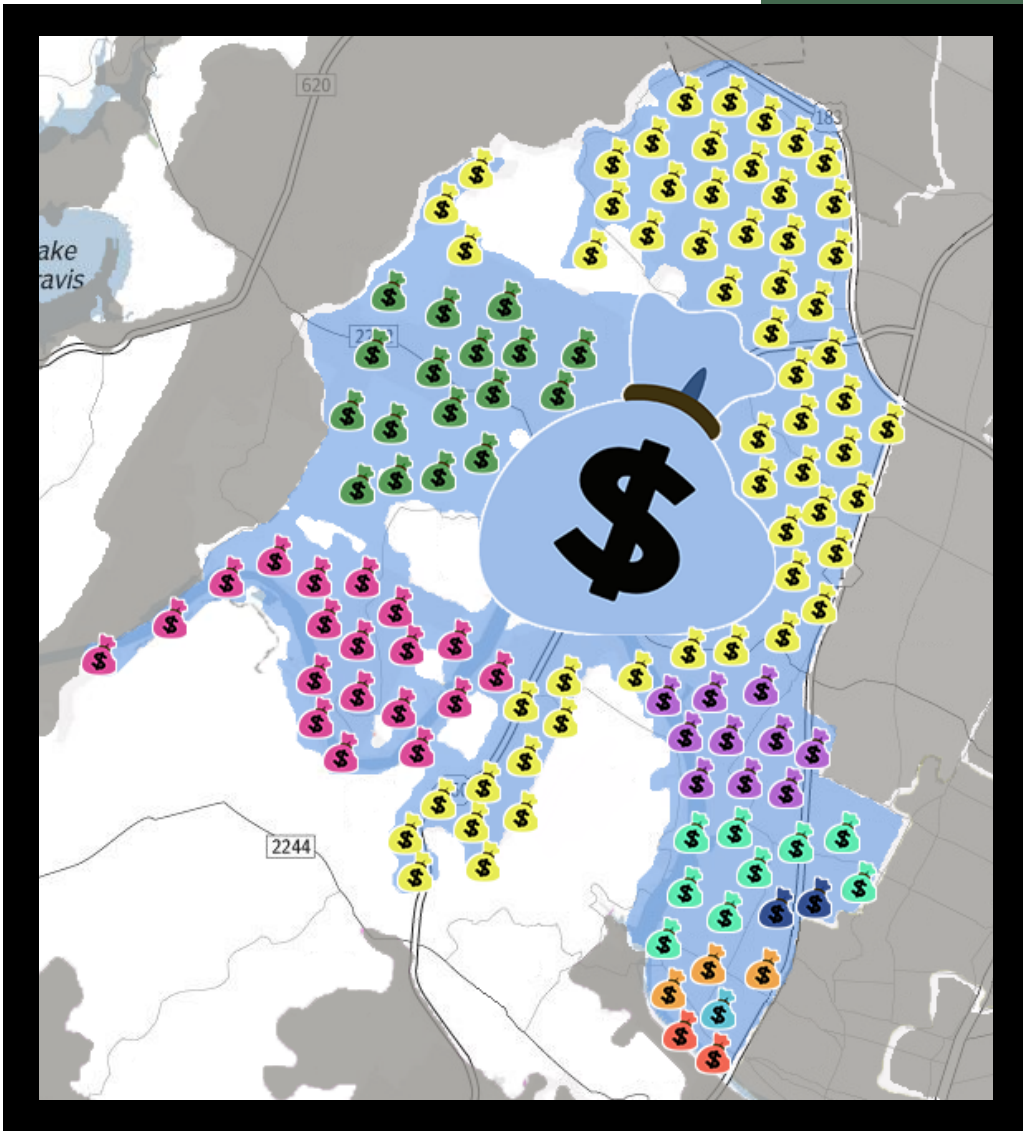
District 2 Candidates.....	\$ 8,045
District 4 Candidates.....	\$ 31,680
District 6 Candidates.....	\$ 45,900
District 7 Candidates.....	\$ 30,490
District 10 Candidates.....	\$ 232,230

Total Contributions: \$348,345

Total Amount to Candidates Running within District 10: **\$232,230**
Total Amount Sent to Candidates Running in Other Districts: **\$116,115**

Where the money came from ...

District 10



Contributions to District 10 Candidates

District 1	\$	1,684
District 2	\$	725
District 3	\$	3,325
District 4	\$	1,725
District 5	\$	8,760
District 6	\$	9,770
District 7	\$	16,543
District 8	\$	19,000
District 9	\$	56,570
District 10	\$	232,230

Total Contributions: \$ 350,332

Legend

-  District 1
-  District 2
-  District 3
-  District 4
-  District 5
-  District 6
-  District 7
-  District 8
-  District 9
-  District 10

Candidate Profiles

District	Candidate ¹	Total Raised ²	In-District Contributions ³	Percent In-District	Out-of-District Contributions	Percent Out-of-District
2	Wesly Faulkner	\$2,365	\$75	3%	\$2,290	97%
2	Delia Garza	\$63,398	\$2,980	5%	\$60,418	95%
4	Gonzalo Camacho	\$695	\$0	0%	\$695	100%
4	Greg Casar	\$145,850	\$11,007	8%	\$134,843	92%
6	James Flannigan	\$130,742	\$37,539	29%	\$93,203	71%
6	Donald Zimmerman	\$109,487	\$28,670	26%	\$80,817	74%
7	Natalie Gauldin	\$46,676	\$9,346	20%	\$37,330	80%
7	Leslie Pool	\$85,221	\$23,766	28%	\$61,455	72%
10	Alison Alter⁴	\$173,159	\$104,339	60%	\$68,820	40%
10	Sheri Gallo	\$251,338	\$127,441	50%	\$123,897	50%
10	Nicholas Virden	\$300	\$200	66%	\$100	34%
10	Robert Walker	\$4,625	\$250	5%	\$4,375	95%
	Total	\$1,013,855	\$345,613	34%	\$668,243	66%

The percentage all district candidates raised in his or her own district reinforces the disparity between lower, middle, and high-income districts. Low-income district candidates, from D2 and D4, raised eight and ten percent of contributions from Austin residents from within their own district. Districts 6 and 7 candidates, representing middle-income districts, raised 38 and 29 percent from within their districts. And district 10, the most affluent district, saw 66 percent of its contributions come from within the district.

Breaking down how much each district contributed to council races, district 10 unsurprisingly outperforms all other districts. On its own, District 10 raised between 20 and 29 percent of total funds contributed to district candidates in each district. District 10 remains as Austin's kingmaker.

In-District Contribution Rates

District 2:	8%
District 4:	10%
District 6:	38%
District 7:	29%
District 10:	66%

District 10 Contribution Rates

District 2:	20%
District 4:	29%
District 6:	26%
District 7:	27%

1 Bold indicates council race winner.

2 Total raised from political committees, businesses and individuals regardless of residence location.

3 Just includes contributions from individuals residing within the respective council district.

4 Alter received an additional \$64,171 from the Austin Fair Campaign Finance Fund.

Methodology

Researchers analyzed campaign data filed with the Austin City Clerk by all candidates who reported raising money for one of five city council seats on the 2016 ballot. Using Travis County voter registration and property records, researchers matched individual Austin contributors to their respective council districts. When individual contributors appeared to use a work address, researchers attempted to identify their residential voting address. All but \$10,796 of individual contributions (1 percent of the total raised) was assigned either to an address in one of the 10 districts or to somebody who lives outside Austin's voting limits. Contributions by businesses or political committees are included in the overall totals but were not assigned council districts. Those entities contributed a total of \$44,800 (4 percent of the total). Income and demographic data was obtained through the Austin City Clerk.

Appendix 1.

District-by-District Demographics

	Contributions from District	Median Income	Anglo- White	African- American	Hispanic- Latinx	Other
Austin Citywide	\$787,557	\$62,153	47%	7%	37%	9%
District 1	\$17,366	\$42,150	23%	28%	43%	5%
District 2	\$6,208	\$42,650	20%	8%	69%	3%
District 3	\$22,707	\$36,185	27%	8%	61%	3%
District 4	\$18,944	\$39,200	21%	10%	65%	4%
District 5	\$35,067	\$77,250	60%	4%	31%	5%
District 6	\$81,134	\$85,950	64%	4%	15%	16%
District 7	\$71,134	\$74,250	58%	8%	22%	12%
District 8	\$48,421	\$116,150	70%	2%	18%	10%
District 9	\$138,241	\$81,535	67%	4%	17%	13%
District 10	\$348,345	\$131,100	78%	2%	9%	11%

Appendix 2.

Austin Campaign Finance Rules

Candidates for Austin Mayor and City Council may raise money only within one year of the election.

These candidates may not accept contributions in excess of \$350 per contributor per election. Candidates may not, in the aggregate, accept contributions totaling more than \$36,000 per election and \$24,000 per runoff election from sources other than real people who are eligible to vote in Austin city elections. Small-donor political committees that do not accept contributions in excess of \$25 may contribute a total of \$1,000 per election to candidates.

No person required to register with the city as a lobbyist, or the person's spouse, may contribute more than \$25 to a council or mayoral candidate or to a political committee involved in a candidate election.

Candidates may voluntarily agree to limit their fundraising and campaign expenditures under Austin's Fair Campaign Ordinance and potentially become eligible for grants from the Fair Campaign Fund if they face a runoff election.

All candidates and committees must file periodic contribution and expenditure reports with the city clerk.