WALLETSHOCK · TEXAS

Austin County, Texas

What things cost, what was decided, who paid, what you can do

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www.walletshock.org/tx/austin

What you pay

Prices where you live, from the Bureau of Labor Statistics series that covers your area, and electricity from EIA's statewide average. Each line names the area its figure describes.

- Eggs: about $2.37 per dozen, grade A large as of October 2026, 45.2% higher than in October 2021 (the South region). Bureau of Labor Statistics series APU0300708111
- Milk: about $3.93 per gallon, whole as of October 2026, 10.2% higher than in October 2021 (the South region). Bureau of Labor Statistics series APU0300709112
- Ground beef: about $6.32 per pound, 100% ground beef as of October 2026, 39.1% higher than in October 2021 (the South region). Bureau of Labor Statistics series APU0300703112
- Gasoline: about $3.72 per gallon, regular unleaded as of October 2026, 29.1% higher than in October 2021 (Houston). Bureau of Labor Statistics series APUS37B74714
- EIA's statewide residential average was 15.91 cents per kilowatt-hour in August 2026, against 15.40 cents per kilowatt-hour in August 2025, the same month a year earlier: up 0.51 cents. EIA Electric Power Monthly, table 5.6.A

What was decided

What is on record: the question before the Attorney General and the actions of Austin County's court and cities, as reported.

- Hood County's question to the Attorney General, whether a county may pause industrial development, has waited 270 days and reads "Pending". Office of the Attorney General, request RQ-0633-KP status page
- FracTracker lists 1 data center facility in Austin County and 2 within 25 miles of its center. Data provided by FracTracker Alliance (2026). Accessed via https://www.fractracker.org/data-centers/ FracTracker Alliance data centers dataset
- July 2026: Austin County, Austin County Commissioners Court, moratorium adopted. Austin County passed an ordinance adopting a countywide moratorium on new artificial intelligence data center and battery energy storage system developments, a pause to evaluate their impact rather than a permanent ban. The Local Fight Over Data Centers: A Texas Case Study (MultiState, August 19, 2026)

Who paid

Reported gifts, matched filings, lobby registrations and tax breaks, each a list or a sample as its source describes, never a tally.

- NOTUS counted at least $448,000 through June 2026 from executives and political committees of companies building, operating and investing in data centers. Ken Paxton's Political Operation Rakes In Data Center Donations as Texans Turn Against Industry (NOTUS, in The Washington Sun)
- From the filings: 70 gifts totaling $1,130,875 to Attorney General Paxton's campaign committees from donors on the data center industry list, and 108 lobbyists registered in Austin in 2026 by companies on that list. FEC, Texas Ethics Commission
- Austin County's adopted county tax rate was $0.56743 per $100 of value in 2021 and $0.50377 in 2025, a change of -11.2 percent. Texas Comptroller, property tax rates and levies files
- The Comptroller lists 3 Chapter 312 abatement agreements for taxing units in Austin County. Comptroller open data, Chapter 312 abatement table
- The state's sales tax exemption for data centers is estimated at $1,598.0 million for fiscal 2027, statewide. The statewide data center sales tax exemption, by fiscal year

What you can do

A letter to the court from this page's figures, a page to share, and the full county record.

- Write to the Austin County Commissioners Court: a letter from this page's figures is ready to put your name on. No letters have been counted from the Austin County page yet.
- Share the county page so neighbors see the same record.
- The full record for Austin County, with every source, is at https://www.walletshock.org/tx/austin

WalletShock places prices, decisions and money side by side. It does not assert that one explains another.

Sources:
https://data.bls.gov/timeseries/APU0300708111
https://data.bls.gov/timeseries/APU0300709112
https://data.bls.gov/timeseries/APU0300703112
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