

Austin Area BBC Pre-registration Survey

Updated 11/15/21

Updated 11/18/21 (responses 25-27 added)

Please describe how your home or business **Internet connection supports or hinders your online world.**

- 1.
2. We do a lot with digital outreach through social media, our webpage, and utilize online and cloud-based resources, so a broadband connection is necessary.
- 3.
4. Limited upload speeds
- 5.
6. My home internet connection supports my whole family be able to connect to the outside world- from work, school to socializing with others.
7. There would be no working from home without it. There would be no way to communicate in a timely manner with medical, mental health and school needs. We cannot function effeciently or effectively without it.
- 8.
- 9.
10. The internet at both is pretty good.
11. Interrupted connection or important stakeholders who do not have access are unable to collaborate and share voice
- 12.
- 13.
14. I have internet access to my home but it is impacted by demand. Certain times of the day it is very slow.
15. We use Spectrum for our Internet services, and rely on this service to run our server and POS workstations. We have experienced outages and other problems that affect our business.
16. We are not hindered but our monthly expense is high
17. At home I need internet for many things. A good connection provides support and allows me to print extra homework support for my children, stream education videos and more. When connection is bad I am unable to print, and seamlessly utilize the programs that our family use. Internet connection at my place of work is critical, utilizing internet connection allows me to participate on virtual meetings, print materials from our office copy machine, and go through the work day more quickly. When the internet connection is down or slow I am unable to fully participate in virtual meetings, unable to print from the office printer, I may have to work from home due to no internet in the office, and the time it takes to complete work takes much longer.
18. Business it is not prohibiting. Home it is expensive to have internet connection
- 19.
- 20.
21. We have reliable high speed internet at school. Our internet at home is mostly reliable.
- 22.
- 23.
24. Working from home can get slow internet connection. Significantly slower than mother-in-law's house in Iowa.
- 25.

26. My home internet connection is either very slow or unreliable. I live 1.5 miles from town and my only options are satellite or local wireless. This impacts my ability to work from home and my children's ability for online learning.
27. I thankfully have access to high speed internet living in Austin which allows me to work from home when necessary and to fully utilize any internet resources that I or my family choose such as streaming services like Netflix or Disney+ even at the same time while working without issue. Although with little to no completion, the service feels rather costly just for internet.

Please share your thoughts on how the Austin Area is positioned to provide the high-quality workforce.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
7. I don't know about it but I know we need it.
- 8.
- 9.
10. We have many community resources, learning opportunities and career opportunities
11. Systems and structures are in place, but a sustainable platform to create great connection will accelerate the work
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
16. Need to learn more
17. Austin has many opportunities in the workforce, many of which are high-quality.
18. The Austin area is positioned well by having a fortune 500 company in its town, community support and the Hormel Foundation to help support and have a high-quality of workforce. There is also a variety of workforce opportunities ranging from lower to higher level positions and degrees.
- 19.
- 20.
21. We have great educational system both public and private that prepare students for the future.
- 22.
- 23.
24. Austin has a growing school system with ongoing investment in facilities and support for education beyond high school. This can hopefully lead to more high school graduates staying in the area.
- 25.
26. I think that in town has a good established connection for ISPs but once you travel outside the city limits, there is little options for rural internet that is fast and reliable to meet high-quality workforce needs.
- 27.

How do you think businesses and industries in the Austin Area are using technology in an innovative way?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
6. Mayo, the schools and other businesses in Austin have utilized tech systems such as Zoom and Schoology during the pandemic in order to provide services families and elders.
7. Small businesses and new businesses are using it to control the flow of their customers, have them register ahead of time. Registering for appointments has reduced frustrations for clients and the providers. Mental and physical health providers provide telehealth appointments which reduces stress for those who need transportation and mobility support.
- 8.
- 9.
10. the EAT DRINK SHOP Austin Facebook page is a good example of businesses banding together to promote what they have, build each other up and support each other for the good of the community
11. Technology is used to change platform to be more engaging, resourceful and efficient to accelerate goals and work.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
16. Quality inexpensive internet is not an option anymore. All businesses need it.
17. Many businesses are able to provide both in person and virtual meetings, events, and more. One example is Hormel providing virtual concerts.
18. Businesses are using technology to help with marketing, media. As well as images and computing with research and other areas
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
24. I don't think there's anything particularly innovative about how Austin area businesses and industries use technology. It would be interesting to have a competitions/contests -- 1) best current innovative use of technology by a small business 2) best new idea for innovative use of technology by a small business. Brainstorming here...this would help us understand what the issues and ideas are.
- 25.
26. Unknown.
- 27.

How do you see **unequal access [digital equity] to technology and the internet creating a divide in the Austin Area? If you have an example either from your family or someone you know, please share it.**

- 1.
2. My wife is a teacher and I know access was a challenge during the earlier part of the pandemic when kids were communicating with teachers from home. My wife's EL students in particular struggled.
- 3.

- 4.
- 5.
6. There are families who do not have access to internet or the service does not meet their needs, the schools and Austin Public Library have been provided hundreds of hotspot to student so that they could be educated.
7. Families with school age children suffer greatly because the majority of communication of the schools comes through emails and texts and zoom meetings. When children need to isolate or quarantine they need internet to do their school work. Accessing apps of the school and library is not possible without internet. Belonging to sports teams is difficult without it.
- 8.
- 9.
10. Often financial limitations are the cause of unequal access to technology and the internet. I also see older people who can afford it, but lack the skills to use it to it's potential.....
11. Online registration for school Online registration for community programing Healthcare Communication of events, general information, and access to learning, events.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
16. No example at this time
- 17.
18. Technology is very expensive there are many families that cannot afford internet. This makes it hard for families to receive communications sent via email form businesses, schools etc. This creates a divide because much information is sent this way.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
- 24.
- 25.
26. Those that have access to ample technology and internet are better prepared for excelling in education and work opportunities during times where government mandates force individuals to be at home.
- 27.

How do local organizations communicate with community members? Is this a two-way discussion? How is technology used? What are the messages [advocacy] the Austin Area is sending out to the world to attract people and investment?

- 1.
2. We use print advertising, weekly radio, social media, our website, and a semiannual newsletter to communicate with the Austin area.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
7. facebook, instagram are ways to communicate.
- 8.

- 9.
10. Our diversity is our strength. Have the young train the old on tech and the internet. Have the young observe and work with the middle aged in careers to gain exposure and experience. Have those that speak the language mentor those that are new to our culture/language and traditions
11. Greater access to resources and community connection
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
18. We need to make sure Austin area has affordable access to technology and investments should be in that area. Having areas such as the library, maybe ymca etc be places or hubs for people to go to access technology easily.
- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
- 23.
24. Quality and affordable Housing, childcare.
- 25.
26. Unknown.
- 27.

Sustainability initiatives strive to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. They can also help businesses become more competitive as they use materials, water and energy more efficiently in their production cycle. How are people and organizations in the Austin Area adopting sustainable practices in their operations? What barriers to sustainable practices exist?

- 1.
2. The Utilities has many programs to help people improve energy efficiency and lower water use. I think cost, knowledge of the programs, and a lack of understanding of why they are necessary are all barriers.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
7. I have not heard of any
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.

18. solar power is one way, however this can make it hard as well as many solar panels are needed to keep businesses running

19.

20.

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

26. Unknown.

27.