



Councilmember Leslie Pool

Council Member, District 7 Austin, Texas

Elected in 2014 to the Austin City Council after voters changed the city's governance model from at-large to single-member districts in the inaugural class, Leslie Pool is in her third term as council member representing District 7 in Austin, Texas.

Quote

"As cities grow, there is immense pressure on their resources. It is more critical now than ever that we protect our green spaces, creeks, and rivers. In Austin, we provided additional protection for the creeks that run throughout our city, offering democratic access to nature. Adding hiking and biking trails along these creeks encourages use, allows adults and children to connect with nature, and provides the added benefit of taking cars off our congested roadways. Austin currently boasts 60 miles of urban trails, with the ultimate goal of 400 miles that will safely connect one end of the city to the other."

The council member was in her first year on the Austin City Council when in 2015 she attended the historic United Nations Climate Conference in Paris (COP21). From the seeds of that signal event the reach of her policy work on energy and environmental policy has broadened - internationally, with Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI); at the state level, with the National League of Cities and its Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee; and locally, with her colleagues on the council dais. Last May, Council Member Pool represented Austin at ICLEI's Malmö Congress (Sweden) as a plenary speaker on climate change; in November, she presented on Children in Nature programming at NLC's City Summit in Kansas City.

CM Pool's work furthers Austin's urban sustainability through initiatives supporting low emission, nature-based, equitable, and resilient systemic change. She has sponsored key initiatives expanding Austin's transit map to unanimous council approval, authorized funding for new rail stations and a 32-mile bike and walking trail, and advocated for the successful passage of revenue bonds for the first-ever system of rail transit in Austin. Pool is a director on Capitol Metropolitan Transit Agency's governing board and a member of its Finance & Audit Committee. Council Member Pool chairs the Austin Energy Utility Oversight Committee and the Balcones Canyonlands Coordinating Committee, is vice chair of Council's Audit & Finance Committee, and a trustee on the City Employees Retirement System board of directors.

Biodiversity Affiliations

- NLC's Energy
- Environment and Natural Resources Committee
- NLC's Large Cities Council
- ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability USA
- Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Coordinating Committee