



## **Austin Interfaith**

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### **STATEMENT ON AUSTIN INTERFAITH'S 2018-19 CITY OF AUSTIN BUDGET PRIORITIES 6/13/18**

*Austin Interfaith's City of Austin 2018-19 budget priorities are developed out of hundreds of small group "house meeting" conversations with residents, research actions with policymakers, and our ongoing work with the Mayor, City Council, and city staff to ensure we are lifting people out of poverty and building a strong middle class in Central Texas. Austin Interfaith's membership reflects the diversity of the city, and we understand the need to both invest in human capital, and also make living in our city affordable. The following are Austin Interfaith's 2018-19 City budget priorities:*

1. Increase the City living wage for full and part time workers to \$15.00/hour
2. Increase funding of Capital IDEA to \$2.5 million
3. Continue city support of Prime Time After School Programs at \$950,000
4. Continued support of Parent Support Specialists Program at \$1million
5. Homestead Exemption - Our civic and religious traditions teach us to measure any economic policy by how it treats the most vulnerable. Austin Interfaith supports services for children and families including Capital IDEA job training, parks, library hours and services, Prime Time after school programs, summer youth employment, parent support specialists, affordable housing investments, fair wages, and services for the homeless. The proposed homestead exemption increase would cost an estimated \$5 million, therefore our position on the homestead exemption is guided by the same principle as in years past: ***Austin Interfaith calls on the Mayor and Council to support a homestead exemption change only if it will not negatively impact the most vulnerable of our residents.***
6. Austin Interfaith believes that any proposed bond package for the fall of 2018 should include significant investments in affordable housing and housing for homeless residents.