

Elgin



Elgin, Texas, known as the “Sausage Capital of Texas,” is a small yet vibrant city located about 25 miles east of Austin. With a rich history rooted in the railroad and agricultural industries, Elgin has maintained its small-town charm while experiencing growth as part of the greater Austin metro area.

The city is famous for its authentic Texas BBQ and sausage, especially from local institutions like Southside Market & Barbeque, one of the oldest barbecue joints in the state. Elgin also boasts a historic downtown filled with preserved 19th-century architecture, local shops, and community events that reflect its proud heritage. Surrounded by scenic farmland and known for its friendly atmosphere, Elgin blends tradition with progress, making it a unique and welcoming place to call home.

Elgin, is also known for its strong sense of community. **Elgin's dedication to preserving its history is evident in its many restored buildings and its active historical society.** The Elgin Depot Museum, located in the town's historic train depot, offers a glimpse into the city's past, showcasing artifacts and stories from its days as a bustling railroad hub.

Nature lovers will also appreciate the area's parks and access to outdoor activities, including nearby hiking and biking trails. As more people seek a balance between rural tranquility and urban accessibility, Elgin continues to grow while staying true to its roots—a place where history, culture, and community come together.

Elgin has a steadily growing economy supported by a diverse mix of industries, with roots in manufacturing, food production, retail, education, and public services. One of the city's economic staples is its historic brick and ceramics industry, with companies like Acme Brick Company playing a major role for decades. Elgin also earns its nickname as the “Sausage Capital of Texas” through local food producers such as Southside Market & Barbeque and Meyer's Sausage, which provide both jobs and culinary recognition.

The Elgin Independent School District is a major employer as well, reflecting the city's investment in education to support a rising population. Retail giants like Walmart and H-E-B also contribute significantly to local employment. Thanks to its proximity to Austin, just 25 to 30 minutes away, Elgin is seeing population growth and increasing interest from businesses seeking lower operating costs while staying close to a major metropolitan area. Many residents commute to Austin



for higher-paying or specialized work, but Elgin itself continues to grow its local job base. Economic development efforts have focused on infrastructure upgrades, school expansion, and attracting new businesses. While wages for some local positions, especially in retail and service industries, may be lower compared to urban counterparts, the lower cost of living helps balance this. Overall, Elgin's economy reflects a healthy blend of tradition and forward momentum, positioning it as an appealing place for both workers and employers in Central Texas.

ELGIN ISD

The Elgin Independent School District is located approximately 22 miles east of Austin and is in the Region 13 Education Service Center area. Elgin ISD comprises more than 168 square miles in portions of Bastrop, Lee, and Travis counties and provides educational facilities and resources to meet the needs of more than 5,000 students. Thanks to a passed bond, EISD will open two new elementary campuses in the following years.

ELGIN ISD

ELEMENTARY CAMPUSES

- Booker T. Washington Elementary School
- Elgin Elementary School
- Neidig Elementary School
- Harvest Ridge Elementary School

SECONDARY CAMPUSES

- Elgin Middle School
- Elgin Intermediate School
- Elgin High School
- Elgin Early College High School
- Phoenix High School

AREA UNIVERSITIES/COLLEGES

- Austin Community College
- Blinn College
- Concordia University
- Houston-Tillotson College
- Texas State University
- Southwestern University
- St. Edward's University
- Temple Junior College
- Texas A&M University at College Station
- University of Texas at Austin
- State industrial training
- Vocational-technical education programs

TOP 10 THINGS TO DO IN ELGIN

The Sausage Capital of Texas! The City of Elgin was created by the Houston and Texas Central Railroad in 1872 and named after Robert Morris Elgin, the railroad's land commissioner, as was the practice back then to name a new railroad town after an officer of the company. The city owes its existence to a major flood on the Colorado River in 1869. Originally, the railroad was to have run from McDade, ten miles east of Elgin, southwest to the Colorado River at a point somewhere between Bastrop and Webberville, then to Austin, following the river. Besides the history, and obviously the world-class BBQ, Elgin offers a big taste of small-town Texas!

Meyer's Elgin Smokehouse

Known as 'Cuetopia, Texas, Meyer's has been rolling out world-class BBQ since 1949. The Meyer family has been perfecting their family's secret sausage recipe, as well as mouthwatering brisket, ribs, and chicken for hungry Texans for almost seven decades.

The Elgin Depot Museum

Upon arriving at the historic Union Depot, discover an extensive archive collection, providing a detailed look at the communication equipment since the town's founding. The museum features permanent and rotating exhibits as well as an extensive collection of historic photographs from the area.

Elgin Antique Mall

The Elgin Antique Mall provides over 8,000 square feet of year-round treasure shopping—collectibles, glassware, oak furniture, toys, advertising, and knives – plus more!

Liberty Tree Tavern

If you're looking for a refreshing beverage and some live music in a building that was once a funeral home, then the Liberty Tree Tavern is for you. Rumor has it there's a ghost or two keeping the taps cold!

Down Home Ranch

A 410-acre working farm, empowering people's lives through residential, educational, social, and vocational programs such as residency, ranch camp, or respite opportunities.

Hogeye Festival

Visit Elgin toward the end of October. The streets are closed down for an annual cook-off, arts and crafts, a Road Hog Car Show, live music, a carnival, talent show, a kids parade, and SO much more!

Thomas Memorial Park

It's a 12-acre park, featuring several ball fields, picnic tables, a nine-hole disc golf course, volleyball court, a playground, and trails.

White Fences Equestrian Center

Lessons, boarding, training, and shows, as well as guided trail rides. The trail rides take you through miles of rolling hill country and forest trails. Suitable for all experience levels.

Sip, Shop & Stroll

Local retailers invite folks to sip, shop and stroll their way through downtown Elgin. You'll find live music, beer and wine tastings, store specials and more with extended store hours and specials throughout town.

The Old Coupland Inn and Dancehall

Eat. Drink. Dance. Built in 1904, the building began as the Coupland Drug Company in 1911. The building now has a restaurant, dancehall with live music, and rooms to book in their unique 1800s wild west brothel-style Bed and Breakfast.