

Debbie Russell was born and raised in Houston, Texas, receiving her BA from University of Houston in 1992. Debbie also lived in Austin for 25 years, moving back home recently to help with family needs.

Debbie is, for many of us who are active in the community, "the activist's activist." She is always there happy to play behind the scenes to get things done from making sure people were safely rehomed from Katrina or after a flood in Central Texas, or advocating for those using their first amendment rights to peacefully protest.

Debbie's support for a broad range of issues includes serving on the Del Valle ISD Board of Trustees (representing District 2) from 2011 – 2019. She also volunteered on behalf of the ACLU-TX and the Austin Lawyers Guild for nearly 20 years.

Russell spent many years focusing on police accountability and open government and was as a member of the City of Austin's Public Safety Task Force. She was named Austin's "Most Active Activist" in the Austin Chronicle, Best of 2005; received the ACLU-TX "Outstanding Activist" award in 2009; and in 2010, she received a Volunteer of the Year award from Texans for Accountable Government; a "Si Se Puede" award from PODER: People in Defense of the Earth and Her Resources and a Spike Gillespie "Kick Ass Award."

Deb also volunteered with the Green Party of Texas for several years, working to maintain and increase ballot access, and acting as campaign manager for the 2002 GPTX gubernatorial run of Rahul Mahajan. She also co-ran the Texas petition drive for independent presidential candidate Ralph Nader in 2004, and solely organized his 2008 write-in campaign.