



NOVEMBER 7, 2023

**2023 GENERAL
ELECTION
VOTERS
GUIDE[®]**



POLLS OPEN 7AM

NONPARTISAN ELECTION MATERIAL



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TAKE METRO TO THE POLLS

METRO is providing free rides to the polls from October 23 to October 29 for Early Voting and on Election Day, November 7, 2023. Get information by going to www.ridemetro.org or calling 713-635-4000.

EARLY VOTING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2023: 7am - 7pm

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2023: 7am - 7pm

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2023: 7am - 7pm

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2023: 7am - 7pm

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2023: 7am - 7pm

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2023: 7am - 7pm

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2023: 12pm - 7pm

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2023: 7am - 7pm

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2023: 7am - 7pm

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2023: 7am - 7pm

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2023: 7am - 7pm

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2023: 7am - 10pm

ELECTION DAY

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023: 7am - 7pm

VOTE 411

ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

**FAST • EASY
BALLOT INFORMATION
JUST FOR YOU**



Find candidate responses and ballot issues for YOUR specific ballot on VOTE411.

www.vote411.org

THINGS VOTERS SHOULD KNOW

CHANGES TO THE TEXAS ELECTION CODE ARE NOW IN EFFECT. INFORMATION AND HELPFUL VIDEOS ABOUT THESE CHANGES AND HOW THEY MIGHT AFFECT YOU MAY BE FOUND AT LWVTEXAS.ORG

✦ PHOTO ID IS REQUIRED TO VOTE IN PERSON IN ALL TEXAS ELECTIONS

Those voting in person either early or on Election Day will be required to present photo identification or an acceptable alternative identification allowed by law. Go to page 3 for details.

✦ ANY HARRIS COUNTY POLLING LOCATION CAN BE YOUR POLLING PLACE

All Harris County polling places are now Voting Centers! Choose the location that is most convenient to you — you no longer have to return to your home precinct to vote! Go to www.harrisvotes.com/waittimes or call 713-755-6965 to find the location nearest to you. Bonus! By using the link, you will also be able to see which locations have the shortest wait times.

✦ HARRIS COUNTY HAS NEW VOTING MACHINES

The VerityDuo system is now in use. Using the VerityDuo is a 2-step process. Step 1: Cast your ballot on the touch screen VerityDuo machine and print a copy for verification. Step 2: Take the printed copy of your ballot to the VerityScan machine to record your ballot and cast your vote.

✦ BALLOT BY MAIL

Voters may cast mail ballots if they are at least 65 years old, if they will be out of Harris County during the Early Voting period and on Election Day, if they are sick or disabled, if they are expecting to give birth within three weeks before or after Election Day, or if they are incarcerated but eligible to vote.

✦ YOU CAN TRACK YOUR BALLOT BY MAIL

You can now track the progress of your ballot by going to www.harrisvotes.com. Click on Voting by Mail then on Mail Ballot Tracking.

✦ VOTING IS YOUR RIGHT

Should you encounter any problems at the poll, you may always ask to cast a Provisional Ballot and have the opportunity to correct any problem; see page 3 for details about "curing" a Provisional Ballot. You may also contact the Harris County Clerk's Office of the Elections Administrator at 713-755-6965, the Texas Secretary of State Elections Division at 1-800-252-8683, the United States Department of Justice at 1-800-253-3931, or Election Protection at 1-866-OUR VOTE (687-8683), if you believe that your right to vote is being unlawfully denied or impeded.

VOTING IN PERSON? YOU MUST BRING ONE OF THESE PHOTO IDs

With the exception of the U.S. citizenship certificate, the identification must be current or, for voters aged 18-69, have expired no more than 4 years before being presented for voter qualification at the polling place. A person 70 years of age or older may use a form of identification listed below that has expired if the identification is otherwise valid.



Texas driver license issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS)



Texas personal identification card issued by DPS



Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS



U. S. military identification card containing the person's photograph



Texas license to carry a handgun issued by DPS



United States citizenship certificate containing the person's photograph



United States passport

Voters who currently do not have an approved form of photo ID may apply for an Election Identification Certificate (EIC) at no charge with the Department of Public Safety.

For more information:
CALL (512) 424-2600

OR VISIT
www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/electionID.htm

DO NOT POSSESS AND CANNOT REASONABLY OBTAIN ONE OF THESE IDS?

Bring one of the following supporting documents to the polling place. The election official will help you complete a form and you'll be able to vote.

- Valid Voter Registration Certificate
- Certified Birth Certificate (must be an original)
- Copy of or original Bank Statement
- Copy of or original Government check or paycheck
- Copy of or original current Utility Bill
- Copy of or original government document with your name and an address (original required if it contains a photograph)

If you have questions or concerns about acceptable form of ID, check before heading to the polling place by calling 713.755.6965 or visiting www.harrisvotes.com

"CURING" A PROVISIONAL BALLOT

Voters who are unable to provide an acceptable form of photo ID or an acceptable supporting document may vote provisionally. Voters will need to sign a provisional affidavit and will have until Monday, November 13, 2023 to cure their ballot by bringing an acceptable form of identification to the Harris County Clerk's Office.

Your VOTE is Your VOICE

Voting is important because you are important! Register to vote so you have the opportunity to cast a ballot. When you vote, you help elect officials who set policy that will impact nearly every part of our lives, from education to taxes to medical care to law enforcement. When you vote **YOU** help to decide who represents us and how we will be governed.

» AMENDING THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION

EMPOWERING
VOTERS.
DEFENDING
DEMOCRACY.

The current Texas Constitution was written in 1876 and has been amended nearly five-hundred times. Compare that to the United States Constitution, which has only twenty-seven amendments.

Why does the Texas Constitution have so many amendments? Rules for how state and local governments should run are very specific in the Texas Constitution, unlike in the U.S. Constitution. Therefore our state lawmakers often have little freedom to make changes to laws without amending the state constitution. The proposed changes must pass both houses of the legislature by a 2/3 vote, and then the voters must approve all changes.

All potential amendments that appear on your ballot must originate in the legislature. The Texas Constitution cannot be amended by

citizen-led ballot initiatives, referendums, or petitions, as in some other states.

We vote on a slate of amendments in the fall of odd-numbered years, following the spring legislative session. Topics vary, and can cover a wide range of topics, and some may affect only a few counties.

Voting on amendments fulfills your right and duty as a Texas citizen. This approval or disapproval of changes to our constitution gives you a direct voice in our state government.



STATE OF TEXAS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION

PROPOSITION 1 – HJR 126

“The constitutional amendment protecting the right to engage in farming, ranching, timber production, horticulture, and wildlife management.”

EXPLANATION

Proposition 1 would establish a constitutional right for people and businesses to farm, ranch, produce timber, or manage wildlife on property they own or lease. The state of Texas could still allow state agencies or local governments to regulate these practices:

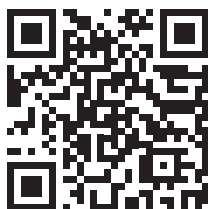
- If there is clear and convincing evidence that the regulation is needed to protect public health from imminent danger;
- to prevent danger to animal health or crop production; or
- to conserve the state’s natural resources.

ARGUMENTS FOR

- As the Texas population grows and the demand for food increases, it is important to prevent cities from overregulating agricultural production.
- The proposed amendment ensures that “generally accepted” farming, timber production and wildlife management practices are allowed on properties within counties and cities.
- Proposition 1 would still allow the state legislature to authorize state agencies or local governments to regulate farming practices that are necessary to protect the public from imminent danger.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

- Proposition 1 limits the power of local governments to protect the health of their communities by setting rules covering farming practices that impact animal welfare, food safety, drinking water protection, animal waste, odors and pesticide runoff.
- The proposed amendment allows farms, including large, industrial farms, to operate with less accountability to the local community.
- Counties and cities must follow the definition of “acceptable agriculture practices” as defined by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, whose interpretation may be too broad for urban areas.



Election Information You Need
LWVHouston.org

PROPOSITION 2 – SJR 64

“The constitutional amendment authorizing a local option exemption from ad valorem taxation by a county or municipality of all or part of the appraised value of real property used to operate a child-care facility.”

EXPLANATION

Proposition 2 would allow counties and cities to lower property taxes on some child care centers. This benefit would apply to child care centers:

- that are owned or rented; and
- with at least 20% of children enrolled who receive subsidized child-care services.

ARGUMENTS FOR

- Lower property taxes would reduce costs for child care centers, so more can remain open and more can be built.
- Having a larger number of child care centers may lower costs for working parents, allowing them to stay in the workforce.
- Child care centers may use the savings from lower property taxes to improve wages and benefits for staff, helping them retain workers.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

- Proposition 2 would lower property taxes for one type of business, which could increase the tax burden for other property owners.
- Lower property taxes would reduce taxes raised to fund counties and cities.
- The benefits of this tax break may not flow to parents and child care workers.

PROPOSITION 3 – HJR 132

“The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of an individual wealth or net worth tax, including a tax on the difference between the assets and liabilities of an individual or family.”

EXPLANATION

Proposition 3 would amend the Texas Constitution to prohibit a wealth tax. A wealth or net worth tax is a tax on the value of a person’s assets (what a person owns) less liabilities (what they owe). Assets may include cash, bank

deposits, shares of stock, equipment, real estate, pension plans, money funds and trusts.

ARGUMENTS FOR

- Texans should not be penalized for creating wealth and starting businesses which help the Texas economy grow.
- This tax would be difficult to administer and enforce due to the complexity of determining the fair value of a person’s assets.
- Some taxpayers may have significant assets, but low cash flow. For example, farmers or retired persons may have valuable property, but paying a wealth tax from their earnings may be a struggle.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

- The state needs to maintain the option of a wealth tax that would shift the tax burden to those able to afford to pay more, helping to address wealth inequality.
- Proposition 3 would limit options for the state to fund its needs in the future, such as for schools, infrastructure, mental and physical healthcare, and public safety.
- This proposed amendment addresses a tax that is not being considered by the state legislature.

PROPOSITION 4 – HJR 2

“The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to establish a temporary limit on the maximum appraised value of real property other than a residence homestead for ad valorem tax purposes; to increase the amount of the exemption from ad valorem taxation by a school district applicable to residence homesteads from \$40,000 to \$100,000; to adjust the amount of the limitation on school district ad valorem taxes imposed on the residence homesteads of the elderly or disabled to reflect increases in certain exemption amounts; to except certain appropriations to pay for ad valorem tax relief from the constitutional limitation on the rate of growth of appropriations; and to authorize the legislature to provide for a four-year term of office for a member of the board of directors of certain appraisal districts.”

EXPLANATION

Proposition 4 would amend the Texas Constitution to allow tax cuts that were approved by the Legislature in the 2023 special session to take effect this year.

Proposition 4 allows the legislature to reduce property taxes as follows:

- The homestead exemption would increase from \$40,000 to \$100,000. The homestead exemption is the amount of the appraised value of a primary residence that is not subject to taxes by the local school district.
- The increase in the appraised value for a non-homestead property (such as a business property or second home) cannot be more than 20% over the prior year’s appraised value.
 - Only non-homestead properties with value of \$5 million or less qualify at this time.
 - This non-homestead property tax limit expires December 31, 2026.

- The Legislature has approved sending money to school districts to replace lost tax revenues. Proposition 4 would allow this money to be sent without counting toward spending limits in the constitution.
- Currently, members of local appraisal boards are all appointed. Proposition 4 allows the Legislature to require that in counties with a population of 75,000 or more, three of nine members of a board be elected.

ARGUMENTS FOR

- Proponents say these property tax cuts would save Texas homeowners an average of \$1,300 per year in property taxes, with additional cuts for property owners who are seniors and those with disabilities.
- Over \$12 billion will be sent from the state’s general revenue funds to school districts so that school districts can lower tax rates. This shifts the burden of school funding away from property taxes to other sources. Tax rate reductions passed by the Legislature limit how much is shifted to businesses.
- The owners of moderately priced homes would get the most benefit from the increase in the homestead exemption.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

- The property tax reductions give no relief for renters, who make up more than 1/3 of Texas households, many of whom are struggling with high rents.
- Opponents say the property tax changes approved do not include any new money for schools or teacher pay raises, even though Texas is ranked near the bottom in per-student spending for education.
- Shifting away from property taxes to fund our public schools could result in higher sales taxes and higher taxes on businesses.

PROPOSITION 5 – HJR 3

“The constitutional amendment relating to the Texas University Fund, which provides funding to certain institutions of higher education to achieve national prominence as major research universities and drive the state economy.”

EXPLANATION

Proposition 5 would provide money for research grants for Texas’ public universities.

Currently, the University of Texas and Texas A&M University are the only nationally recognized research universities in Texas and therefore receive substantial funding for research.

In 2009, Texas set up the National Research University Fund to provide research grants at other public universities. Currently, eight Texas universities qualify for research grants from this fund.

Proposition 5 proposes to replace the National Research University Fund with two new funds:

- Texas University Fund would be created to support research grants at Texas State University, Texas Tech University, the University of Houston, and the University of North Texas. The Legislature would provide

\$4 billion of initial funding for the Texas University Fund. The Legislature may provide \$100 million per year of the interest and investment income from the Economic Stabilization Fund (also known as the Rainy Day Fund) to support this fund. The Legislature can add eligible public universities to the fund only if additional money is provided.

- National Research Support Fund would be created to support the University of Texas Arlington, University of Texas Dallas, University of Texas El Paso, and University of Texas San Antonio. Funding would have to be approved every two years by the Texas Legislature.

Also, Proposition 5 standardizes performance metrics to evaluate whether a university program qualifies for a grant.

ARGUMENTS FOR

- Proposition 5 helps higher education in Texas by providing stable funding for research in the four universities supported by the Texas University Fund.
- Research at Texas public universities helps drive the Texas economy.
- Both funds provide a path for more universities to become eligible for research grants.
- Using standardized national performance metrics will allow more universities to qualify for research grant funding.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

- Proposition 5 continues the unequal treatment of public universities in Texas.
- Proposition 5 would provide stable research funding for only four additional public universities at this time (those funded by the Texas University Fund).
- The funding through the National Research Support Fund is not stable and would still require legislative approval every two years.
- No additional universities will be added to the Texas University Fund unless the Legislature adds more money.

PROPOSITION 6 – SJR 75

“The constitutional amendment creating the Texas water fund to assist in financing water projects in this state.”

EXPLANATION

Proposition 6 would create the Texas water fund. This fund would provide grants and low interest loans for water projects across Texas. The fund is being set up to address concerns about not having enough water to meet the needs of Texas’ rapidly growing population.

The Texas Water Development Board will administer the fund. This Board, whose members are appointed by the governor, is responsible for meeting the state’s water needs, so that Texans have access to enough clean and affordable water.

ARGUMENTS FOR

- Proposition 6 will provide funding to help communities plan and implement projects to obtain new water supply sources to ensure future water availability for Texans.
- There is a great need for projects to replace or repair aging pipes which the state estimates leak billions of gallons of water each year. Also, water and wastewater treatment plants in many communities need upgrades and/or replacements.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

- The amount the Legislature has agreed to put into the fund is not enough to pay for the number of projects needed to secure Texas’ future water supply needs.
- Proposition 6 would allow funds to be taken from state revenues to fund local water projects.

PROPOSITION 7 – SJR 93

“The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the Texas energy fund to support the construction, maintenance, modernization, and operation of electric generating facilities.”

EXPLANATION

Proposition 7 would allow the creation of the Texas energy fund. Money put in the fund by the Texas Legislature would be used by the Public Utility

Commission to provide low-rate loans or grants to companies to build or upgrade electric generating plants in Texas.

ARGUMENTS FOR

- Additional state funding is needed to increase the reliability of the state’s electric market, especially for power that can be quickly provided during extreme weather when demand is high.
- The money loaned or granted to build the electric generating plants are from the state’s budget surplus funds, so electricity customers will not be paying for these plants.
- If the plants are completed by June 2029, the builders receive a bonus under the program. This ensures that extra energy generation will be added to the electric grid soon.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

- The Texas energy fund would primarily fund natural gas-powered electric plants. These plants may be more expensive and harmful to the environment than other more cost-effective and clean solutions to make the electric grid more reliable.
- Solar and wind projects are not eligible for loans or grants from this fund. They currently generate about 39% of Texas electricity and have reduced electricity costs in Texas.
- Natural gas-powered electric plants were among the power sources that failed during the 2021 winter storm. Despite this, they would be subsidized by the Texas energy fund if this proposition passes.

PROPOSITION 8 – HJR 125

“The constitutional amendment creating the broadband infrastructure fund to expand high-speed broadband access and assist in the financing of connectivity projects.”

EXPLANATION

Access to high speed internet is now essential for employment, healthcare, education and government, but is not evenly available throughout Texas, especially in rural areas.

Proposition 8 would allow Texas to create a \$5 billion fund to expand high speed internet throughout Texas. Money in the fund, along with money

from the federal government broadband program and other resources, would provide grants and other support for investments in high speed internet projects. The fund would end in ten years.

ARGUMENTS FOR

- Proposition 8 would expand reliable high speed internet to Texans all across the state, including in areas where private companies do not currently operate.
- Improved access to high speed internet would result in better productivity and efficiency in agriculture and energy, two of Texas’ most important industries.
- This fund would enable Texas to use state funds to take advantage of available federal dollars to expand internet availability for more Texans.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

- Funding high speed internet expansion is not the responsibility of the government. Private companies have already provided most Texans with access to high speed internet.
- Proposition 8 does not prioritize lower income communities for high speed internet development.
- The money in the fund is not enough to provide high speed internet to all Texans.

PROPOSITION 9 – HJR 2

“The constitutional amendment authorizing the 88th Legislature to provide a cost-of-living adjustment to certain annuitants of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.”

EXPLANATION

In 2023, the Texas Legislature approved cost-of-living adjustments and a one-time extra payment to retired teachers or their survivors who currently receive retirement or death benefits from the Teachers Retirement System of Texas. The one-time extra payment was paid in September 2023. The cost-of-living adjustments would start January 2024.

The total cost of the one-time extra payments and the cost-of-living adjustments is about \$5 billion. This amount will be transferred from the

state’s general funds to the Teachers Retirement System so the teachers’ pension fund will remain financially sound.

Proposition 9 is required so the amount being transferred for the cost-of-living adjustment does not exceed the Texas Constitution’s limit on state spending.

ARGUMENTS FOR

- Retired teachers in Texas do not have a cost-of-living adjustment built into their retirement benefits, and have not received a cost-of-living adjustment in many years. Because of this, many retired teachers have difficulty covering the higher cost of living. This adjustment would help retired teachers and their survivors pay their bills.
- The higher payments to retirees would increase their spending, and therefore help local communities across Texas.
- The increased benefits will be funded from the current budget surplus, leaving the Teachers Retirement System pension fund financially sound.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

- The cost-of-living adjustments proposed are not enough to offset the impact of high inflation on retirees.
- The higher payments to retired teachers do not address the current teacher shortage.

PROPOSITION 10 – SJR 87

“The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation equipment or inventory held by a manufacturer of medical or biomedical products to protect the Texas healthcare network and strengthen our medical supply chain.”

EXPLANATION

Proposition 10 would remove property taxes on equipment or inventory belonging to manufacturers of medical or biomedical products. Texas is one of only a few states that applies a property tax on the equipment and inventory of medical and biomedical companies. In Texas, property taxes

pay for local government services such as police, firefighters, libraries, and public education. Property tax on other property of medical and biomedical companies will remain.

ARGUMENTS FOR

- Removing property taxes on biomedical equipment and inventory may encourage more biomedical companies to move to Texas, creating high-paying jobs.
- Removing property taxes on biomedical equipment and inventory could strengthen our medical supply chain and may protect the Texas healthcare network.
- The COVID pandemic exposed the risk of having key medical equipment manufactured outside of the country, showing the importance of supporting local biomedical manufacturers.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

- Because Texas does not have an income tax, eliminating property taxes on biomedical equipment and inventory will reduce funds available for local school districts and local government services.
- The burden of the tax loss will fall more heavily on communities with biomedical manufacturers.
- Reducing property taxes for one industry places more tax burden on other businesses and individuals to support their government and public schools.

PROPOSITION 11 – SJR 32

“The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit conservation and reclamation districts in El Paso County to issue bonds supported by ad valorem taxes to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities.”

EXPLANATION

In 2003, the Texas Constitution was amended to give conservation and reclamation districts (such as municipal utility districts, known as “MUDs”) in eleven counties across Texas the ability to issue bonds to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities. El Paso County was not included in the list of counties, so it currently does not have

this ability, resulting in an underfunded parks system across the county. Proposition 11 would include El Paso County on the list of Texas counties that allow their conservation reclamation districts to issue bonds to develop recreational facilities. These bonds would be supported by property taxes, but could only be authorized if voters of the district approve them.

ARGUMENTS FOR

- Allowing bonds to be issued for parks and recreation facilities will benefit the health and wellness of El Paso County residents.
- More and improved parks will encourage further economic development and growth for the region.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

- If approved by a majority of voters in a district, property taxes would be levied to pay interest and principal on the bond issued. The voters in a district who voted against the issuance of such bonds would still be burdened with additional taxes.
- Land allocated to parks could be more economically productive if left in private hands.

PROPOSITION 12 – HJR 134

“The constitutional amendment providing for the abolition of the office of county treasurer in Galveston County.”

EXPLANATION

Proposition 12 would eliminate the office of the county treasurer of Galveston County effective January 1, 2024. The members of the Commissioners Court of Galveston County would assign the duties of the treasurer's office to individuals in other county offices (such as auditors, chief financial officer, county clerk) or would contract the work out to other individuals. Nine other counties in Texas have eliminated the treasurer's office.

The current county treasurer, elected in 2022, ran on a platform to abolish the county treasurer's position. This amendment takes effect if this constitutional amendment is approved by a majority of statewide voters and if a majority of Galveston County voters approve abolishing the office in the November 7, 2023 election.

ARGUMENTS FOR

- According to the Chief Financial Officer of Galveston County, abolishing the county treasurer's office would save taxpayers in the county \$450,000 annually.
- Supporters say that abolishing the office would make the work formerly performed by the treasurer's office more efficient and cost effective.
- Abolishing the county treasurer's office may reduce the risk of misappropriation of funds such as occurred in 2018.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

- Much of the estimated taxpayer savings may shift to other departments' costs.
- Removing the office of county treasurer would impact current checks and balances between elected county commissioners, who control the budget, and the elected county treasurer, who makes financial management decisions.
- An elected county treasurer is accountable to voters.



Election Information You Need
[LWVHouston.org](https://www.lwvhouston.org)

» WHAT IS VERITYDUO

VerityDuo is the new voting system for Harris County. It is a two-step voting system that provides a paper trail of your vote. At the first machine, you will view your ballot, use the touch screen to make your selections, and print your ballot. Next, take your printed ballot to the second machine where you will cast your vote. Questions? Poll workers can help or you can watch a tutorial video at www.harrisvotes.com.

HOW LONG MAY I TAKE TO VOTE?

Voters may take as much time as they wish at the VerityDuo machine. Once activated the ballot will not time out or expire. If you are having problems using the machine, you may ask a poll worker for assistance.

PROPOSITION 13 – HJR 107

“The constitutional amendment to increase the mandatory age of retirement for state justices and judges.”

EXPLANATION

Currently, the Texas Constitution:

- Requires that a state judge retires at the end of the term in which he or she turns 75.
- Allows the state legislature to set a lower mandatory retirement age, not less than 70.
- Requires a state judge elected to a six-year term to retire by December 31st of their fourth year of the term if they reach the age of 75 during those first four years.

Proposition 13 would:

- Raise the mandatory retirement age for a state judge to 79 (instead of 75).
- Allow the legislature to set a lower age, not less than 75 (instead of 70).
- Repeal the provision regarding mandatory retirement at the end of the fourth year in a six-year term for those judges reaching age 75 during the first four years.

ARGUMENTS FOR

- People are living and working longer, and experienced state judges should be allowed to continue to serve if they are capable and willing.
- Allowing judges to serve longer may result in a more predictable and stable judiciary.
- State judges in Texas are elected. Voters can determine whether a judge deserves to be elected. The Judicial Conduct Commission is available to address any issues with a judge’s competence between elections.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

- The Judicial Conduct Commission may not be able to promptly address issues with older judges who experience cognitive decline and/or lower productivity.
- Extending the age limit will keep the Texas judiciary from reflecting the demographics of the current Texas population.
- Retired state judges are still eligible to serve as visiting judges, so retired state judges can continue to work if they choose.

PROPOSITION 14 – SJR 74

“The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of a centennial parks conservation fund to be used for the creation and improvement of state parks.”

EXPLANATION

Proposition 14 directs up to \$1 billion from the current budget surplus and other sources to create the centennial parks conservation fund, a dedicated pool of money to buy land for the creation and improvement of state parks. Texas state parks contain diverse wildlife, natural landscapes and important cultural and historical sites. Population growth and loss of land to housing

and commercial development, combined with increased demand for outdoor recreation, have led to crowding and some park closures. More than 95% of land in Texas is privately owned and every year land is getting more expensive to buy.

ARGUMENTS FOR

- State parks provide affordable access to outdoor recreation such as hiking, hunting, fishing and camping.
- State parks protect water resources and safeguard habitat for wildlife.
- State parks provide an economic boost to the outdoor recreation industry and to the rural communities located nearby.
- State parks educate Texans about their heritage by preserving significant cultural and historic sites, an essential legacy to future generations.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

- Taxpayer money should not be used to create and maintain more state parks.
- There are other public needs more pressing than adding to the state park system.
- Recreation is not a proper role for the government.
- Having more public lands could impose restrictions on private development and limit agricultural and mineral rights.

LOOKING FOR
ELECTION INFORMATION
AND CANDIDATES
RESPONSES IN
CHINESE, SPANISH
OR VIETNAMESE?

CHINESE



SPANISH



VIETNAMESE



HARRIS COUNTY BOND ISSUE, PROPOSITION A

FUNDING FOR HARRIS COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT D/B/A HARRIS HEALTH SYSTEM

The issuance of \$2,500,000,000 Hospital District bonds for acquiring, constructing, equipping and enlarging the District's hospital system, including improving, renovating and developing (A) the Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ) Hospital campus, including a replacement hospital with a Level I capable trauma center, (B) the Ben Taub Hospital campus and (C) District clinics and health centers; and the acquisition of land for authorized system purposes; and the levying of a tax sufficient to pay for the principal of and interest on the bonds and the costs of any credit agreements executed in connection with the bonds.

EXPLANATION: This countywide ballot proposition is a \$2.5 billion bond issue in support of a 12-year improvement and expansion plan for the Harris County Health System.

Harris County Commissioners Court unanimously voted to present this bond issue to the electorate.

If approved by voters, bond funds plus a combination of \$400,000 from system cost savings and philanthropic efforts will fund the plan to improve and expand Harris Health System's facilities. The bond translates to an approximate two cent tax increase for property owners

over the next decade—about \$6 a month or \$70 a year for homeowners of a \$300,000 property.

Proponents of the bond proposal note the urgent need for comprehensive, well-planned health services in Harris County and praise the community collaborations that will support the anticipated services. However, some have raised concerns about establishing facility and service priorities.

All Harris County voters may vote on this ballot issue.

VOTE "YES":

if you are in favor of instructing Harris County to move forward with issuing bonds in support of the Harris County Health System.

VOTE "NO":

if you do not want Harris County to issue bonds in support of the Harris County Health System.



Election Information You Need
LWVHouston.org

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, CALL:



866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683)
ENGLISH

888-Ve-Y-Vota (839-8682)
SPANISH

888-API-VOTE (888-274-8683)
ENGLISH, MANDARIN, CANTONESE,
KOREAN, VIETNAMESE, BENGALI,
URDU, HINDI, AND TAGALOG

844-YALLA-US (844-925-5287)
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301-818-VOTE (301-818-8683)
AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (VIDEO CALL)

888-796-VOTE
DISABILITY RIGHTS TEXAS



LOCAL BALLOT ISSUES

BALLOT ISSUE “A” CITY OF HOUSTON CHARTER AMENDMENT

Shall the City Charter of the City of Houston be amended to enable three or more Council Members, by written request, to have item(s) placed on the agenda of a regular City Council meeting and to have such item(s) considered by Council?

EXPLANATION: This City of Houston Charter Amendment was approved by the Houston City Council in 2021 as a matter for voter determination, specifically designated to appear on this present ballot (November 7, 2023). The current Charter of the City of Houston names the Mayor as the exclusive agenda-setting authority for each weekly City Council meeting. This amendment would allow items to be placed on the weekly agenda at the request of at least three

city council members. Proponents of the measure believe that this change would allow the Houston City Council to more comprehensively deliberate important issues. Opponents regard the change as an unnecessary, possibly clumsy, adjustment.

All City of Houston voters may vote on this ballot issue.

VOTE “YES”:

if you are in favor of amending the City of Houston Charter to allow at least three city council members to place items on the weekly City Council meeting Agenda.

VOTE “NO”:

if you are in favor of keeping the Mayor as the exclusive agenda-setting authority.

BALLOT ISSUE “B” PROPOSITION RELATING TO CITY OF HOUSTON’S PARTICIPATION IN CERTAIN REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Shall the City Charter of the City of Houston be amended: to require that membership by the City of Houston in a Council of Government or Metropolitan Planning Organization shall be contingent on the votes of the governing board for such council or organization being apportioned proportionately on the basis of population, notwithstanding statutory voting members, and that members representing local governments shall have at least 90 percent of the total votes; and to require the City of Houston to withdraw its membership from any non-compliant Council of Government or Metropolitan Planning Organization if the voting system is not corrected within 60 days of the effective date of adoption of the Charter provision?

EXPLANATION: This proposition will allow the City of Houston to remain in any Council of Governments or Metropolitan Planning Organization only if votes on the agency’s Governing Board are apportioned among the members based on the population of each jurisdiction. The City of Houston would be required to withdraw from any agency that does not afford population-proportional representation. Presently, there are no instructions or requirements in place that regulate City of Houston membership in Councils of Governments or Metropolitan Planning Organizations.

This measure was sparked by the terms of Houston’s membership in the Houston Galveston Area Council, a policy-making agency that distributes state and federal funds. The Houston Galveston Area Council is governed by a 37-person board that currently includes two Houston representatives.

Proponents of the measure believe that population-proportional voting is democratic and ensures responsive governance. Opponents believe that strict population-proportional voting would erode the beneficial concept of regional, broad-based planning and governance.

All City of Houston voters may vote on this ballot issue.

VOTE “YES”:

if you are in favor of instructing the City of Houston to participate only in those Government Councils or Regional Planning Organizations that are managed by population-proportional governance.

VOTE “NO”:

if you are in favor of keeping the present system of allowing the City of Houston to participate in Government Councils or Regional Planning Organizations, no matter the terms of the organization’s governance.

HOUSTON MAYOR

AS EXECUTIVE OFFICER, CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR, AND OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE, THE MAYOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HOUSTON'S GENERAL MANAGEMENT; SEES THAT ALL LAWS ARE ENFORCED; MAKES ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS; PRESIDES OVER CITY COUNCIL; ADVISES ON THE CITY'S FINANCES; AND PROPOSES THE ANNUAL BUDGET. LIMITED TO TWO 4-YEAR TERMS.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

BACKGROUND: Why are you running for this office? What special skills/experience make you uniquely qualified to be Mayor?

CITY SERVICES: What are the basic services the City of Houston should guarantee to all of its residents and what measurable steps will you take to provide these services?

PUBLIC SAFETY: What essential elements do you believe must be included in a comprehensive public safety plan for Houston?

ECONOMY: What steps should the City take now to lay the groundwork needed to ensure a strong economy for Houston and its residents in the coming years?



Julian Bemer Martinez

BACKGROUND: Julian Antonio Martinez is a true American success story. He was born into a hardworking family in the Dominican Republic, the oldest of six siblings. In 1985, Julian ventured out to start his own business. Today, Julian now runs a 38 year multi-million-dollar car dealer & service center dedicated to serving the Houston community. As a businessman, he believes in stewarding the resources God has given him to further the greater good. That's why his business supports numerous Christian organizations, churches, schools, homeless shelters, orphanages and youth athletic programs. Julian wants to further his impact by running for mayor and representing the best interests of the people of Houston.

CITY SERVICES: Every Houstonian should be guaranteeing safety in their communities. I will ensure that our police department is properly staffed and equipped with needed resources to reduce crime. I would consider using a 3rd party contractor to provide basic services like scheduled garbage collection to service all areas throughout Houston. A review of all current and pending contacts pertaining to city infrastructure and repair updates will be review and prioritized according to urgency. This will provide safer commutes and drivable roads for all Houstonians. Unfortunately, we all are familiar with flooding. This is a major issue that plagues Houston. I would work with the appropriate

Website: www.jmartinez2024.com

personnel to reelevated drainage improvement throughout all bayous, creeks and reoccurring flood hotspots.

PUBLIC SAFETY: There are two main components when organizing and preparing a strategy plan for public safety for all Houstonians. Law and order are key to protect all citizens from potential crimes. Reinforcing the Houston Police Department with adequate staffing for all departments and necessary daily equipment. Positioning satellite stations within our communities for faster response times for assistance. Another public safety plan will include providing our Houston Fire Department resources to perform their duties with accuracy. Many times, our firefighters are first on scenes to fight fires or provide medical support. As City Mayor I would make sure all employment positions within the Houston Fire Department are properly manned to provide the best services needed to all Houstonian when a request arises.

ECONOMY: As Mayor of Houston, I would ensure that crime rates decline. Businesses are facing high theft crimes and these profit losses usually trickle down to the paying consumer. We want investors to know that Houston is a safe and welcoming city to start up a business. As Mayor I would work with the city council committees and members to formulate contacts with startup businesses for success.



Lee L. Kaplan

BACKGROUND: My late father was a small businessman; my mother worked part-time at Neiman-Marcus. My dad's constant admonition still resonates with me every day: "If it's worth doing, it's worth doing right." And my mother's intelligence, warmth, and compassion taught me the importance of recognizing the contributions of others. I take what I learned from my parents to heart as I run for Mayor of Houston. I will tackle the thorny issues that frustrate Houstonians every day: crime, infrastructure and traffic, garbage, and the maddening difficulty of dealing with the City bureaucracy. I'll tackle these problems head-on and make progress to help our city move forward. I don't promise to "solve" these problems overnight or "fix" them forever. But I won't get distracted by petty arguments or rhetorical disputes as we focus on what needs to get done. I will strive to be a Mayor who does things right, a Mayor you can be proud of, a Mayor who focuses on the essential services that impact all of us.

CITY SERVICES: Crime, infrastructure, traffic, and making sure the garbage is picked up in every neighborhood. I'll tackle these problems head-on and make progress to help our City move forward. I don't promise to "solve" these problems overnight or "fix" them forever. But I won't get distracted by petty arguments or rhetorical disputes as we focus on what needs to get done.

PUBLIC SAFETY: I believe we need to have more police on the beat and that our police need to be more visible. This will allow police to work with community leaders to prevent these crimes.

Website: www.kaplanforhoustonmayor.com

In many cases, these crimes won't occur just because people will see more police on the streets. We need more funding for police, but we also need smarter policing. We should implement more of the suggestions in the PFM study purchased by the City in 2017, such as civilianizing more functions in the police force or combining duplicative HR functions. This would free up police to be on the beat to prevent crime. We should recruit for more cadet classes. And finally, we need to hold police officers accountable when they break the law to restore trust between police and the communities they serve.

ECONOMY: As Mayor, I will focus on the basics: public safety, infrastructure (congestion, flooding and drainage), garbage pickup, and permitting. Addressing these needs promotes confidence among citizens that the Mayor is paying attention to their day-to-day needs and makes the city attractive to its own residents. This in turn makes it easier to attract more businesses (and taxpayers) to the city. If Houston is to be the best it can be, everyone must be included. First, we need to make sure the permitting process works better and faster so more units can be built faster because the quickest way to bring down housing costs is to build more units. Second, we need to invest in our infrastructure so that the city can bring in more residents without causing a massive spike in traffic. Third, we need more mixed-use development that includes affordable housing. To that end, we should offer tax incentives for this type of development.



Gilbert Garcia

BACKGROUND: I love Houston! I am a Yale University graduate and the managing partner of Garcia Hamilton & Associates and former chairman of the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO). Under my leadership, GH&A has increased the amount of fixed-income assets it manages from \$200 million to almost \$22 billion. At METRO, we balanced the budget, increased transparency, experienced labor peace, expanded light rail, re-did the entire bus network, revamped the procurement process, all earning us Transit Agency of the Year in 2015. I have served as a lead voice to the SEC to develop policies to increase transparency and address the wealth inequality that exists in America. This includes working with SEC Commissioners and testifying before various committees including the US Senate. If elected, I'll apply that value and experience in my role as Mayor. My experience building teams and running a billion-dollar business is an important skill I can bring to the City of Houston.

CITY SERVICES: Basic City Services are essential to make sure that this city moves forward. The first basic city services that COH should guarantee for all Houstonians are: Public Safety including Police and Fire Services and EMS. In my pledge I address implementing community policing and adding cadet classes and more civilians to the force to move officers to the street. I also support implementing the will of the voters and addressing the firefighters' issues. Over the last year the city has issued a boil water notice which is inexcusable. Safe drinking water, garbage services, access to healthcare clinics and services, affordable housing and Public Transportation are also essential services. All Houstonians will need to have access to healthcare including immunizations and preventive services.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Houston is at a crossroads. Houstonians do not feel safe in their homes or on the street. My plan includes

Website: www.GarciaforHouston.com



M.J. Khan

BACKGROUND: I am running for Mayor to bring a conservative and business-like management style to solve the City's most pressing problems: Crime, flooding and lack of progress in flood control, crumbling streets, severe financial mismanagement and lack of focus in creating good jobs inside the City. Each of these have a major impact on the quality of life in the city, and lack of progress in addressing them cannot continue. I am the only candidate in the race with a combination of private sector business experience and experience at City Hall as a two-term City Councilmember. I have a degree in Civil Engineering and an MBA from Rice. I immigrated to the US from Pakistan with few dollars in my pocket, got a job, went to school, helped my wife to become a successful cardiologist, and formed several very successful businesses. I know what it is like to be poor, to be given an opportunity and to succeed. America is the greatest country in the world and I'm proud to be an American.

CITY SERVICES: Basic City Services include: Crime control, flood prevention and mitigation, repair and maintain roads and bridges, keep water and wastewater services in good repair and in excellent working condition, promotion of a business-friendly environment and policies that promote quality affordable housing in all sectors of the City. During my first 100 days in office, I will: Begin hiring 500 additional uniformed police officers, repair and restructure the City's crime lab, order HPD to begin enforcing our traffic laws and to close down illegal after-hours bars. I will reallocate up to \$200 million in excess sales taxes collected by Metro back to the member cities for road and drainage projects. I will free up over \$200 million annual revenues in the Drainage Fee "LOCK BOX" for \$2.5 billion in taxpayer approved bonds for major flood and infrastructure projects. I will have experts prepare a Natural Disaster Response Plan to help protect our citizens during future hurricanes and floods.

Website: www.mjkhan.com

implementing community policing which I believe will be a collaborative program to help officers better serve their communities. With the priorities of the program being to prevent and respond to all criminal activity, apprehending the individuals that are causing the problems and ensuring that the Public is safe. By strengthening ties and building trust with residents in neighborhoods and having an increased presence of officers on the street we will be able to reduce crime. These officers can identify problem areas in each neighborhood that might need more lighting or demolition of abandoned properties where crime occurs. I also support moving officers out of their desk jobs and back to the street which then would hire more civilians to work in the office. We will need additional cadet classes also.

ECONOMY: As Mayor I would push for key initiatives to enhance the city's economic growth, competitiveness and overall quality of life to ensure we have a strong economy. Houston's economy is very diverse, and I would encourage new companies to join our local economy by relocating to Houston. As Mayor I would reevaluate incentives and tools that the city uses for companies to relocate or invest in the city. Today Houston is being passed over in favor of other cities that are looking to relocate. We need to change that Houston should be one of the top cities companies are considering. Existing industries should be strengthened including Energy, aerospace, education, manufacturing, petrochemical industry, healthcare, technology sectors. We also need to focus on workforce development. Collaboration with these schools will ensure that students have the skills to bridge the skills gap and prepare workers.

PUBLIC SAFETY: A public safety plan for police, firefighters and their related services, should include: RECRUITING to ensure an adequate number of qualified staff. TRAINING to ensure staff is competent in all essential elements of each job. Promote an environment of RESPECT at all levels and between all stakeholders. Developing programs for the public service staff to respect the needs of the public, for the Administration to understand the needs of the public service employees, including good faith contract negotiations, and to restore the public Respect for our police and firefighters. Demand that all public service staff possess and display a high degree of INTEGRITY in the performance of their duties. Inventory and continually update the SERVICES that the staff is expected to deliver to the Public. And develop programs to evaluate the level of EXCELLENCE the staff achieves in delivering safety services by encouraging criticisms, observations and by making needed changes for constant improvement.

ECONOMY: Make Houston a business-friendly city. Repair and build on our relationship with Every Sector. The Port of Houston, Medical Center and Space Exploration sectors should be magnets for bringing related industries to this area. But we also MUST reduce crime and fix our infrastructure and work with HISD to help our school system recover from disastrous policies to be the best in the country. I will encourage major employers to establish businesses in economically disadvantaged area of the city. I will initiate a micro-credit program to help small businesses obtain credit for startups. I will ask Houston First to work with local and national business groups to promote Houston and to recruit companies to start and/or relocate here. I will repair our relationship with the State government to gain access to funds available for major projects in the area and I will build relationships with State Officials to help us expand our Port and Energy business sectors.



Chanel Mbala

BACKGROUND: I'm running because my 15+ years of people-centered care have shown me that government should act as customer care for the people, a role it's not fulfilling effectively. This fuels my commitment to driving positive change and improving our city's future. With a deep understanding of our community's needs, stemming from my extensive caregiving background, and a strong determination to enhance government efficiency and responsiveness, I stand uniquely qualified for the Mayor's role. Recognized as a proficient problem solver, I believe in utilizing these skills to reshape our city's administration into one that genuinely serves and uplifts its citizens.

CITY SERVICES: My vision for Houston revolves around safer streets, better roads, and shelter for all, grounded in comprehensive community well-being. Safer Streets: I champion community policing, fostering relations between law enforcement and neighborhoods. Proactive crime prevention and technology ensure safety and freedom. Addressing root causes, I'll provide job opportunities for those with records, collaborating with local businesses for training and reintegration. Better Roads: As an

Website: www.chanel4mayor.com

Uber driver, I empathize with navigating city roads. Upgrading infrastructure offers smoother, eco-friendly transport options. Improved connectivity reduces congestion, nurturing economic growth citywide. Shelter for All: Collaborating with nonprofits and developers, I'll create affordable housing solutions, providing dignity, security, and community strength.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Pathways to employment for those with criminal records. Crime deterrence strategies such as License plate reader cameras, more police presence on the street and more.

ECONOMY: To secure Houston's future economy, we must: Safer Streets: Foster community-police trust, employ advanced tech for crime prevention, and support at-risk individuals. Better Roads: Invest in infrastructure, prioritize sustainable transport, and manage traffic intelligently. Shelter for All: Partner for affordable housing, aid the homeless with services, and streamline building regulations. This multifaceted approach ensures safety, connectivity, and equitable living, laying a strong economic foundation.



Annie "Mama" Garcia

BACKGROUND: I am running because I am mad as hell. Houston ISD is in crisis and no candidate talks about it. Whitmire even voted for it. The state overrode the people's will when it dissolved our last elected School Board and appointed a Board that answers only to the Governor who, in turn, vows to privatize public education with vouchers. With his New Education System (NES), the Superintendent removed resources like libraries and replaced them with detention rooms for "misbehaving students". Even if you think a standardized test should dictate all curriculum, sending kids to learn via Zoom will fail. But maybe that is the goal. The more broken our district is, the easier to sell it off to charter schools for parts. The next Mayor must use the City's power and purse to save our schools. If you believe that public education is not only a public good, but a public necessity, my candidacy is a rare chance to oppose the takeover. Vote for Mama G and tell Greg Abbott to get out of HISD!

CITY SERVICES: Our Mayor should ensure that a quality public education is accessible to all our littlest Houstonians. While there was a need for real improvement prior to the state takeover of our public schools, the implementation of NES only sets us further back. We need to do better than just meeting the bare minimum. In the sixth richest city in the world with over 6,500 multimillionaires and 25 billionaires, we must not only provide the most basic services – reliable trash and recycling services and utilities, rapid emergency services, and safe roads to name a few – but aim higher. Gun regulation, affordable housing, an accessible and just judicial system, green infrastructure, robust parks and recreation, public transportation and 21st century library systems, a police force as skilled at empathy as force, and the expansion of a humane BARC all present opportunities to increase our invest and improve. And all of this must be equitably distributed, benefitting the poor.

Website: mamaformayor.com

PUBLIC SAFETY: An effective public safety plan must address multiple variables that contribute to unsafety. Most crimes occur against the backdrop of need. Economic opportunity available to all is not the right thing to do, it makes us all safer. Educational opportunity goes hand-and-hand with economic opportunity. Getting the state out of our schools and equitably applying city resources to truly address poor outcomes and educational disparities also will also improve public safety. Third, prioritizing affordable housing and perpetuating recent successes while continuing to look for innovative solutions must be an element to a comprehensive plan. Fourth, gun regulation is an obvious area to improve public safety, yet most candidates won't consider it. There are opportunities for the Mayor to reduce gun violence through regulation, which I welcome the chance to explore. And finally, while ensuring that police are adequately funded is a priority, policing without accountability must end.

ECONOMY: Houston's superpower is its diversity. The diversity of perspectives, life experiences and knowledge leads to endless positives – creative problem-solving, innovation and not to mention one of the best food scenes in the world. To ensure a strong future economy, we need to remain a desirable destination for a diverse workforce, provide economic and educational access for all, promote a welcoming and tolerant culture and make Houston a place people want to call home. The TEA takeover of our schools works against these goals. It devalues multilingualism by canceling dual language programs, creates a fearful environment with the constant threat to nonconforming kids of isolation in detention centers, and limits educational opportunity by laying the groundwork for a broken school district that could soon be replaced by private and charter schools. Since 68% of people remain where they grew up, the failings of our schools will be born Houstonians of the future unless we save our schools.



M. "Griff" Griffin

BACKGROUND: Former small business owner for over 30 years. Former president of the food and Beverage association of TX, Currently president of the Concerned citizens of Houston. Family's for sports fairness

CITY SERVICES: Safety is number one, opportunity is number 2 and regular basic services which include garbage collection, clean water, Safe Streets and more. I will make Houston one of the safest city in the country.

Website: voteforgriff.com

PUBLIC SAFETY: First we will wage war on criminals who are bringing into our city and county drugs that are killing many of our young people. I organized the first crime out program in 1990 in Montrose and it worked.

ECONOMY: Support with incentives for small businesses which Houston is well known for. In 1993 I led the fight with the help from the Houston property rights to defeat Zoning and make Houston the small business capital and it still is.



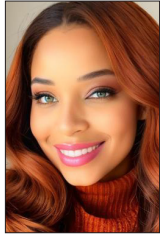
B. Ivy

BACKGROUND: A “Deer” in the Mayan calendar, I was born August 19th, on the Bicentennial of our United States of America, in Houston Texas at 3:15pm, under the sign of Leo and Fire in the year of the Dragon, 1976, With you, I’m going to end racism. How? With my magical powers. And I’m going to teach you how to fly. We’re going to learn together. But first, we’re going to paint some police cars.

CITY SERVICES: Consult the Constitution of the United States of America and its Amendments. On November 7th we’ll be

putting our best foot forward. The span of our steps shall be immeasurable.

PUBLIC SAFETY: The world can be an unsafe place. You’re welcome to wear a helmet and pads if you want. No judgment. **ECONOMY:** Stop buying Nike... made in other countries. Contact Nike... and request they move their manufacturing to Houston Texas! Realize your greatest wealth is inside you and your community.



Kathy Lee Tatum

BACKGROUND: Being boots on the ground organization. So many politicians and programs come to underserved communities use our data get grants and get awards. Way too much corruption. For example, the press conference says they want to help the community, but the contracts that they give out doesn't add up to economical growth. We are never going to be able to see if there is a problem when the same people who have been friends and families are in the position. Smoking mirrors will continue to disrespect people's intelligence of coming out of your house, seeing that your neighborhood is exactly the same versus the data that they put out here. We have bac on buildings that non-profits need and trade schools can rehab to make our communities better. Instead, they rather sell it to out-of-state contractors or leave it vacant and a eyesore. There are people like city workers that are not getting the benefits that they've been promised year after year. Defeat corruption!

CITY SERVICES: Sidewalks, Lightening, Recycling Centers, Accessible Parks and Multi Centers, Work source Technical Centers and Libraries and Drainage

PUBLIC SAFETY: Being in property management, one of the largest changes that police officers could not bring home the patrol cars. Houston has a lot of apartment complexes but not

having a visibility on properties. We need more access for them to have ATVs vehicles that are repaired. More foot patrol, actual community policing that they're sitting and talking to the community at a town hall and not in the back of the room. You should know your officer's and your politicians in your community so you can discuss areas that need lighting that need attention. Not town hall meetings where the politicians pass to Mic to themselves and pat each other on the back.

ECONOMY: There are way too many webinars and not enough teaching step by step on how to do government contracts. Certifications and Capacity Building. We must do a better job and stopping gentrification and actually rebuilding the homes historically exterior. Instead of tearing them down and putting 10 homes on one acre, we must have sidewalks. Why is that important; was a time where neighbors were able to walk and talk about losing a job coming together that everybody in the community made sure that everyone's bills were paid and had something to eat and had the resources and Trade with talent, products, and Culture. Economically everything cannot be built downtown. Everybody should not have to travel downtown to be part of the culture of our city.



Robert Gallegos

BACKGROUND: I have 9+ years serving as a City Council Member studying, acting and voting on every aspect of City Government. I know the challenges we face and how to fix them. Public safety is a major issue. A well trained police force and highly qualified firefighters ensures public safety. More cadet classes to reinforce continued man/woman power. Solid waste (garbage pick-up) needs more equipment and more personnel to pick garbage ON TIME. Streamlining our Planning Department that reorganizes permitting and inspections would save residents and builders money. 311 should be sending daily reports to District Council Offices so a case worker can work with Departments to insure residents concerns are timely addressed. Public Works needs to address street repair. In 2022, 30 billion gallons of water + \$150 million dollars in revenue were lost due to aged infrastructure. 9 billion gallons lost this year. Billing errors and excessive high-bills are unacceptable. This must be repaired now!

CITY SERVICES: 1. Public Safety; police, fire & emergency services. 2. Trash pick-up 3. Public Works to repair streets and infrastructure (Water Dept.- Senior Exemption - No More water rate increases - city water rate locked in at age 65) 4. Housing & Community Development 5. Parks & Recreation 6. Libraries to nurture Quality of Life. 7. Health Department to address health needs in our City. A strong Economic Development Department to bring businesses and opportunity to Houston. Establish sound fiscal policies with a balanced budget. Applying wise spending to every dollar used from City Budget. Economic Development together with a robust Office of Business Opportunities should

attract more revenue into our city and strengthen the economy of Houston to help fund city services. Police department could use civilians to do clerical work for the police and fire department allowing more trained officers and firefighters on the street. Police cadet classes to add 500 new officers to the force.

PUBLIC SAFETY: When we talk about public safety, we immediately think about policing, firefighting and emergency response, but it is so much more. How do we handle hurricanes, mass shootings, bombs, terroristic threats to our city. We have a well trained police and fire departments. Houston must have a comprehensive public safety plan that includes not only day to day protection of its citizens but is prepared for emergencies such as hurricanes, mass shootings, bombs, terroristic threats. We must do risk assessments regularly, have drills with emergency personnel, and educate our police, firefighters and medical response teams to be ready at a moment's notice. I would create a task force to develop a complete and total comprehensive public safety action plan that is in constant preparedness.

ECONOMY: Our City is known as being the energy Capitol of the world but Houston needs to attract renewable energy and technology startup companies. Houston can attract more diverse businesses by offering tax incentives that will add to our economic future as they grow and succeed. We should market the Port of Houston. We should market Houston on a world wide stage as a year around convention center which would infuse financial benefits to the economy.

Website: VoteRobertGallegos.com



Roy Vasquez

BACKGROUND: I firmly believe that loving one's city comes with an obligation to actively contribute. Rather than relying on the possibility of future candidates bringing change, I see a responsibility to step up and become part of that change. It's about taking matters into our own hands and ensuring that Houston's well-being is in the hands of those who are deeply committed to its progress. I'd love to see more candidates from careers focused on helping rather than lifelong politicians – teachers, firefighters, paramedics, counselors, etc. I've had a 12+ year professional career in Learning and Education, with more than 10 of those coming in a leadership role. For many of our issues in Houston, a strong emphasis on education/awareness would help prevent or resolve them. My field encourages continuous learning and that can translate into my dedication to helping continuously educate and inform our people to prevent issues and help to guide the city's growth and development.

CITY SERVICES: 1. Quality education – Allocate budget, collaborate with school districts and the state, implement supportive policies like reducing class size and increasing teacher salaries, engage with the community/parents/teachers, track metrics: graduation rates and test scores. 2. Affordable housing – Allocate funds for affordable housing, collaborate with developers, implement inclusionary zoning policies, engage citizens in housing discussions, track homelessness reduction, etc. 3. Healthcare – Allocate budget for centers targeting the underserved, collaborate with healthcare providers, implement mental health policies, conduct awareness campaigns, track metrics (ex:patient visits, vaccination rates). 4. Accessible and safe transportation – Allocate budget for transportation infrastructure, collaborate with transportation agencies, implement policies for safety and accessibility, invest in transit systems and pedestrian infrastructure, engage citizens in planning, track safety and ridership.

Website: royvasquezformayor.com

PUBLIC SAFETY: Community Policing: Prioritize engagement and trust-building. Crime Prevention: Address root causes. Transparent Law Enforcement: Body cameras, oversight. Mental Health Response: Specialized units for crises and training on how to de-escalate crises. Gang Prevention: Community-based alternatives. Data-Driven Policing: Tech for patterns and resources. Emergency Preparedness: Effective disaster response. Gun Violence Prevention: Checks, education, enforcement. Domestic Violence and Trafficking Victim Support: Shelters, counseling, legal aid. Traffic Safety: Infrastructure improvements and awareness. Youth Development: After-school programs, mentorship. Community Education and Awareness: Empower residents through education in all of these areas.

ECONOMY: Diverse Industries: We can expand our economic opportunities beyond the energy sector. For instance, focusing on biomedical research and development, socioeconomic integration, and improved public education. Education: Partnering with local schools and colleges could lead to training and education that match the needs of growing industries, such as aerospace, medical research, and renewable energy. Small Business Support: We can make it easier for small businesses to start and grow, for example simpler permitting and business mentoring, to help create more local jobs. Innovation Hubs: Initiatives like the Houston Innovation District encourage collaboration between big institutions like the Texas Medical Center and startups, driving innovation in fields like healthcare and technology. Resilience Planning: Learning from experiences like hurricanes, expanding upon initiatives like the Resilient Houston strategy, that prepares our city to recover swiftly from challenges.



David C. Lowy

BACKGROUND: Since I'm running as The FUN Candidate for Mayor, one of my skills should be helping people feel better as they go about their daily lives. I seem to be able to do that. For six years, I rode the streets and trails around Houston on something called a StreetStrider, basically an elliptical trainer on wheels. People in neighborhoods where I rolled by would often light up with a smile when seeing me standing up on this unique three-wheeled device. I realized that it made people feel good; gave them a happy break from more mundane pursuits. I saw I was inadvertently doing some good, when I thought that I was just exercising. Similarly, I believe I could infuse more energy and contentment among employees I've seen at City Hall, many of whose jobs are boring. As Mayor, I would regularly interact with groups of employees, joining with them in yoga, meditation, and simple on-site sports. I would encourage more fun for all citizens and attend and participate in some of their events. Smile!!!!

CITY SERVICES: Water; Roads; Shelter; Extreme-Weather-Education; Safer Driving; Preparation for Electric Vehicle future. People need necessities. The Homeless are residents of this city. I would work to utilize the Astrodome, empty for years, as a temporary "Home in the Dome" for the 1000+ people who, very night, have nowhere to sleep, until with this wealthy city's help, we can help them live better lives. I would implement city-wide classes on ways to cope with extreme weather we often experience. Water bills are excessively high when we use over 3000 gallons; I would move to lower the cost of this necessity, while informing citizens about simple ways to conserve water. I would actively and frequently urge Houstonians to Drive Better to Save Lives (and time). I would make sure that everyone knows how easy it is to report problems by calling 311, and the quickest way to skip the recording and talk to a person. I would make sure that Houston takes rapid steps toward the electric vehicle future! Yay!

Website: LowyForMayor.com

PUBLIC SAFETY: Houstonians have the power to reduce many hazards we're faced with. It boils down to common sense solutions. Our roads need lots of improvement, but if people would take time to call 311 to report pot holes, sunken streets, fallen trees, broken water mains...it would help. Better Driving SAVES LIVES, and time! Slow down, no distractions, increase following distance. There are better ways than police chases to apprehend suspects. Bystanders are put in grave danger. City-wide neighborhood classes on ways to cope with extreme weather are essential these days. Our safety is diminished and the risk of danger to our vehicles is increased by roads in poor condition. A team approach is needed to swiftly address one road repair at a time, rather than tie up multiple locations all over town. Going vegan will improve Houstonians health and longevity. Driving electric will reduce pollution. While I'm at it: Let's get our school system back! Wishing you: Peace/Love/Happiness/FUN!!! David

ECONOMY: A strong economy is not just about selling things at the highest possible prices. One of the more expensive, essential things is food. Prices rose during the pandemic and seem to have stayed that way. The City should request that local restaurants and grocers lower prices where feasible, which would make it more affordable for Houstonians to shop for necessities and even enjoy the occasional meal out. Lower prices would generate more business and make up for the slight loss of revenue per customer. Southwest Airlines for example, built their very successful business by keeping prices low. Showing this understanding of their civic responsibilities, by lowering prices, would cast businesses in a better light, as well as increase profits over time. Houston's reputation as a restaurant town can be enhanced by keeping prices reasonable (grocers too), thus ensuring a healthier local economy, benefitting businesses & consumers. A strong economy is one that helps the people who support it! :)



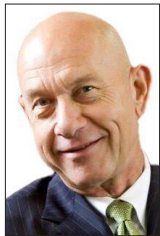
Gaylon S. Caldwell

BACKGROUND: I am running for Mayor because I am confident I have solid solutions or the ability to develop solid solutions that will solve the issues that Houstonians face today and create a better city worth living in tomorrow. Gaylon Caldwell is a 33-year-old Black male and 10-year resident of Houston, Texas where he resides in Scenic Woods in Northeast Houston. Mr. Caldwell is a 2018 graduate of Texas Southern University with a degree in Emergency Management/Homeland Security and a current University of Houston graduate student where he is pursuing a Master of Public Administration/Public Policy degree. Mr. Caldwell has many years in the fire service as a volunteer firefighter/EMT, former 911 telecommunicator with the City of Houston, and many years of Emergency Management experience at all levels of government. Mr. Caldwell is currently employed as an Emergency Management Specialist for FEMA.

CITY SERVICES: Priority 1 – Save Black Male Youth; Priority 2 – Marijuana Friendly Policing; Priority 3 – Gun Control through Firearm Safety, Education, and Awareness; Priority 4 – Safe Neighborhood Parks Initiative; Priority 5 – Expand the staffing and capabilities of the City of Houston Office of Emergency Management; Priority 6 – Maintain the Best Houston Fire & Houston EMS Agency; Priority 7 – Holding Businesses, Apartment Complexes, and HOAs accountable for Public Safety; Priority 8 – Houston Downtown Expansion; Priority 9 – Mitigate Littering/Dumping; Priority 10 – Crackdown on Vacant Businesses / Homes; Priority 11 – Annex areas of Northeast Houston to increase Fire/EMS response; Priority 12 – Stop the Harming of our Children, Elderly, and Police Officers

PUBLIC SAFETY: Strengthened Black families and social networks are key to Black resilience, and lack thereof is a direct threat to national security. Black Male Youth must become productive citizens for their future families and Black wives. Youth must understand the danger of firearms, how to safely store firearms, how to safely operate firearms, and how to remain safe in the presence of a firearm by education. When a Houstonian decides to shop at a local business, that business is responsible for the safety of its customers. Landlords have a responsibility to provide secure living conditions for their tenants. All apartment complexes should be required to have patrols by armed security personnel. Every City Park should be equipped with continuous monitoring technology and patrolling through the creation of the Park Police, a separate law enforcement agency. Our children must be provided safe voyage. when traveling from home to school, from school to gathering/ recreation, and back home.

ECONOMY: As Mayor of the City of Houston, I promise to invest greatly in the rebirth of Downtown Houston. Downtown Houston is the heart of the city, and it is the key to a prosperous future. Downtown is a key indicator of the social and economic position of a city. Therefore, I will put every effort forward to ensuring Downtown Houston earns the title of one of the best downtowns in this country which will benefit families and businesses alike. For example, every Sunday will be Family Day in the City of Houston which will consist of music, food, and fun for all families. I visualize food trucks lining the streets of downtown, concerts at City Hall, and lots of entertainment. I visualize booming restaurants and shops along with vibrant scenery.



John Whitmire

BACKGROUND: I've been a public servant my entire adult life. The people of Houston have asked me to run for mayor to use my experience in the Texas Legislature to help the city I love. As a legislator, I have dealt with many of the issues facing Houstonians today—public safety, transportation and flooding. I have helped create billion-dollar budgets for the State of Texas. I know how to take action and get things done. I've worked with all my colleagues in the Legislature on issues of importance to Houston. I helped create a Latino Senate district, pass the James Byrd Hate Crimes and Sandra Bland Acts and implemented prison diversion programs. I created the Sports Authority, which built our three stadiums. This year, I passed a bill that will bring millions for economic development into downtown Houston. I intend to work with City Councilmembers, the County and the State, making them partners in the Whitmire Administration. We work better when we work together.

CITY SERVICES: The first step to improving city services is to acknowledge there is a problem, then make fixing the problem a priority. As mayor, I will insist all city departments make customer service their number one priority. On day one, I will order my department heads to drill down into their operations and budgets, looking for ways to improve services and drop unnecessary, outdated programs. I will also empower city council members to work with city departments to solve critical problems in their area, and I will ensure our city employees are prepared with better equipment. I will also improve the Permitting Office, which is slowing down efforts to build affordable housing. We need to build more parks and green spaces. We have to get a handle on our deteriorating water system. I will clean up our neighborhoods of heavy trash. I will work with the state and county on more flood mitigation projects like Willow Waterhole. I got \$1 million from the state for that project.

Website: www.johnwhitmire.com

PUBLIC SAFETY: I will increase the number of police officers on the street, partly by hiring civilians to handle administrative jobs that officers are doing now and coordinating with other law enforcement agencies that operate within Houston—constables, school districts and Metro. I will strengthen the Community Policing Program; when police officers and people in the community know each other and work together, we can reduce and prevent crime. We need to better equip our officers on how to handle mental health situations, including enhancing de-escalation training. I will provide more and better “Second Chance” programs that will integrate former offenders back into the community and help them with housing, jobs and other services so they don't have to return to crime to support themselves. To help prevent crime committed by our young people, I will work to expand our efforts to work with schools, nonprofits and businesses to provide more after-school programs and summer job opportunities.

ECONOMY: The City Controller is projecting General Fund expenditures will increase by 4.32 percent, recurring revenues are only expected to rise by 2.86 percent. As ARPA funds go away this problem is only going to get worse. We've been relying on one-time or short-term funding sources to pay for recurring expenses. Houston's budget is structurally imbalanced. It's unsustainable. To right our fiscal ship will require a comprehensive assessment of where we stand now and developing a long-term plan to get us out of this hole. We must fund only what we can afford, with priority on public safety, infrastructure and basic city services like garbage pickup, water service and parks. We should look at consolidating the city's 25 departments and combining services with other government entities, such as libraries, parks and public health. The future of this city remains bright, but we are at a tipping point. To avoid falling off a fiscal cliff we must face these long-term structural challenges head-on.



Jack Christie

BACKGROUND: To fiscally balance a budget to end a decades long of deficit spending, to increase the police force by 500 members, I have been trying to accomplish this for 8 years to reduce crime. My past city council experience allowed me to reduce council members budget to return to taxpayers. Every year I saved at least 20% of my budget. I am a debt free businessman/individual to help save money for citizens/taxpayers.

CITY SERVICES: Clean water, workable sewer systems, pothole free streets, and security for neighborhoods and citizens, I would

have an annual upgrading of water and sewer lines, expeditious repair of roads, increase police presence in neighborhoods.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Sufficient numbers of public safety officers, rapid response time to crime

ECONOMY: No increasing taxes, consumer friendly permitting center, proper enforcing of present laws

Website: christieformayor.com



Sheila Jackson Lee

BACKGROUND: I am running because I love Houston and want to bring my broad experience to help build its future. I will use the experience I gained at City Hall as an at-large Council Member working under two Mayors, chaired many Council committees successfully, served as a Deputy Agriculture Commissioner for the State of Texas and as a Municipal Judge, and my 28 terms serving in Congress delivering results for Houston. I have impacted every Bayou in the city of Houston providing flood mitigation federal funding. I have been a leader in securing federal housing dollars. As a member of the Homeland Security Committee I have been a leader in human and sex trafficking. And I have steered federal funds to the Houston Police Department and HISD for science and research projects. I am known for working hard and delivering results. I want to lead Houston into the future.

CITY SERVICES: As Mayor I will work on law enforcement relationships with the community, build a comprehensive transportation system, be an education Mayor that collaborates with all of our school districts and hold them accountable for academic excellence, have city-wide workforce training,

and develop a plan for upgrading our water, wastewater and drainage systems.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Well before I announced I have been discussing public safety in the City of Houston. As Mayor I will target high crime areas, clean up the areas, and install LED lighting to provide high visibility. The Midtown area is an example of what should happen in all our high crime areas. I will improve coordination among all law enforcement agencies within the city of Houston and Harris County, expand our cadet classes, bring resources to fight violence and youth violence, actively engage more mental health treatment services, tackle human and sex trafficking and provide workforce training across the city.

ECONOMY: My administration will support small and women owned businesses, expand technologies and artificial intelligence, expand our medical research footprint, provide work training and expand trade skills, work with our colleges and universities to provide expanded skilled workforce training, and expand our opportunity as the energy capital of the world to the renewable energy sector.

Website: www.sheilaforhouston.com



Naoufal Houjami

BACKGROUND: Naoufal Houjami is an American Politician, over 25 years of Experience Entrepreneur, Author, US National Security Strategist, fluent in many languages with Extensive International Experience in many countries in Africa, Europe, Mideast, Master in Strategy & Risk Management, Inventor, Composer, Volunteer, Husband and Father of 4 kids who are All born and raised in Houston Texas where He lives with his family.

CITY SERVICES: Fire department & police. Water supply. Sewage collection and disposal. Refuse removal. Electricity and gas supply. Municipal health services. Municipal roads and storm water drainage. Street lighting. Municipal parks and recreation and many other services. My first step to provide these services: 1- Improve transparency and ethical practices in our government 2-Fix the growing unfunded liabilities and structural budget deficit. 3-Review Contracts process, to make sure we are doing business with the right people 4-Hire the right people based on merit not politics.

PUBLIC SAFETY: As families, communities, and city reel from terrible daily tragedies, we must vow to change our culture and

our policies and to stop this cycle of violence. We should be able to live in our homes, send our children to school, pray in our houses of worship, shop in our local malls, and walk through our streets and neighborhoods without being shot. Together we can take action in the memory of those who died and insist that this never happen again. I will bring public and private partners together to invest in disadvantaged neighborhoods services, activities, and improvements, to reduce violence, including gun violence

ECONOMY: My Top priorities: 1- Less bureaucracy within the permitting department and other departments. 2- Fixing the Crisis of Affordable Housing. 3-Improve flood recovery and resiliency efforts. 4-Fix the growing unfunded liabilities and structural budget deficit. 5- Create economic & business opportunities. 6-Build 1 Nuclear Reactor in Houston by 2035 to avoid any power outage during any Winter Ice Storm like Uri or Any Disaster. 7-Population density, talented human capital, and access to resources. These economies of scale increase labor productivity and enable private sector growth.

Website: www.houjamilfortexas.webador.com



Robin Williams (write-in)

BACKGROUND: I am running for the position of Mayor of Houston as it is time for a change of direction. The residents of Houston are entitled to a different narrative. As a Marine, I am a natural leader who will guide our city in the right direction. I am well-informed about the major issues that Houston is dealing with. Crime has engulfed our city, the Harris County Jail has evolved into a mortuary. Mental illness is a silent epidemic, and homeless individuals are currently under attack. I have a Master's degree in Criminal Management and Justice Administration and have dealt with crime head-on. I am confident in my ability to lead our police department in a positive direction. My goal as a mental health trained officer is to provide effective assistance to vulnerable members of our society. Furthermore, I served as a detention officer who ensured the safety of inmates and fellow staff members. I have worked directly with people who are homeless and individuals threatened with eviction.

CITY SERVICES: Residents should be entitled to public transportation that is both effective and safe. Moreover, residents who choose to bike or walk as a method of transportation should be adequately accommodated. 760,000 Houstonians are tenants and 80,000 are now in danger of eviction. It's obvious that affordable housing is required. To prevent renters from facing homelessness, it is necessary to establish a limit or cap on rental fees. It is incumbent upon residents to receive sanitation and waste management services. Houstonians trash should be scheduled for picked up twice a week. Safety is a top priority for all residents and there is a need for more police officers. My job is to recruit mental health trained officers, increase transportation routes, add bike paths. As well as providing additional sidewalks. Furthermore, construct low-income housing that is free from cancer-causing elements.

Website: robinwilliamsformayor.com

PUBLIC SAFETY: Mental health is a pressing issue worldwide, not just in Houston. Providing adequate care to residents of Houston who are struggling with mental illnesses is crucial. Mental illness is not prejudiced against race, creed, social status, or gender. Mental illnesses that are not diagnosed or treated can be a common affliction among Houstonians. It is essential for police officers to receive adequate training on how to respond to mental health calls. In addition, officers must be proficient in recognizing when a Houstonian is experiencing a mental health crisis. When subjects are in a state of psychosis, individuals may lose contact with outer reality. This can lead to crimes being committed. Instead of arresting Houstonians who commit petty crimes (class C crimes), officers should screen them for signs of mental illness. I aim to prevent Houstonians with mental illnesses from being cycled in and out of jail.

ECONOMY: Engage with city employees to discuss pressing issues such as fair pay, health benefits, and creating a productive work environment. Collaborate with city council members to develop a budget that is both accountable and balanced. Furthermore, work towards the production of sustainable resources that maintain a sound budget. Launch a realistic plan to make municipal government more efficient and bring back true customer service. Collaborate with city leaders to develop a more welcoming approach to customer service by allowing citizen input. Concentrate on supporting small businesses (such as mom-and-pop businesses owners, proprietor entrepreneurs, and family businesses). In addition, aid in the maintenance of small businesses and ensure fair competition. Meet with leaders from diverse cultures (African, Latin American, Asian, and European communities) to strengthen international business relationships. Build a team that will aid in creating and generating solid jobs for Houstonians.



Election Information You Need
LWVHouston.org

THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS, SUPPORTERS AND VOLUNTEERS



The League of Women Voters of Houston wishes to thank the League of Women Voters of Texas for providing information about the Statewide candidates. Thanks also to everyone who provided funding support through their donations to the Voters Guide. We invite you to join your fellow Houston-area voters in supporting the Voters Guide.

We wish to thank our many community partners who assist with production and distribution of the Voters Guide. Special recognition and thanks to our members who support our voter education and voter service work through their personal donations and volunteer time. Without them this Voters Guide would not be possible.

HOUSTON CONTROLLER

THE CONTROLLER IS HOUSTON'S CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING THAT THE ASSETS OF THE CITY ARE PROPERLY ACCOUNTED FOR AND EXPENDED IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH APPLICABLE LAWS, POLICIES, PLANS AND PROCEDURES. LIMITED TO TWO 4-YEAR TERMS.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

BACKGROUND: Why are you running for this office? What special skills/experience make you uniquely qualified to be Controller?

CITY FINANCES: What is the appropriate role of the controller in ensuring that the city can meet its financial obligations in both the short and long term? How will you fulfill this role?

ADMINISTRATION: What essential elements do you believe must be included in a comprehensive public safety plan for Houston?



Dave Martin

BACKGROUND: I am a public servant at heart and know my expertise can help to secure the City of Houston's financial security now and in the future. My intimate knowledge of the City of Houston's budget, inner workings of city processes, financial impacts of legislation, as well as financial prowess to know how to take the City of Houston's financial health to the next level set me apart from any other candidate in this race. I'm determined to make sure Houston's stands out and sets an example for municipal finance management across the Nation not just setting the bar but becoming THE example for all other cities.

CITY FINANCES: My 40+ years of professional experience has prepared me for the rigorous activities that are demanded of being a City Controller. As the City's Chief Financial Officer in charge of the City's Audit Division, Operations and Technical Services Division, and Financial Reporting Division. It is the Controller's responsibility to make sure the City of Houston is making sound investments, eliminating debt, and fortifying the City's financial stability. I plan on bringing on board a forensic accounting team and furthering my efforts to increase financial

transparency within the City. Every tax payer should be afforded the opportunity to see where each and every tax dollar is being spent. This will be implemented through launching a Houston Controller financial transparency website that will be housed within the Controller's office. The goal would be to serve as a check on the Finance Department's "Open Finance" website, which was created after an amendment that I authored in 2019.

ADMINISTRATION: This is a great question and exactly why I plan to bring on a team of Forensic Accountants that will collect, analyze, and evaluate the City's finances and interpret those findings communicating them during the monthly financial reports as a regularly reported item. It is imperative for all City leadership to be aware of the day-to-day accounting procedures to gain the trust of our residents. Forensic accounting will help the city identify inefficiencies and redundancies in the budget allowing the City the opportunity to improve any weaknesses and protect itself from any predicted negative economic outcomes while ensuring each dollar is accounted for a spent with law in mind. There should never be a question as to the City's lawful use of assets.

Website: www.martinforhouston.com



Shannan Nobles

BACKGROUND: I am running for City Controller because Houston needs a dedicated Public Servant with experience in the Controller's Office. I have streamlined processes to save money and facilitated the automation of the ACFR (Automated Comprehensive Financial Report), which pulls together the city's financial statements for public disclosure. I am the Chief Deputy City Controller- second to only the City Controller. I am the only candidate in this race with experience working in and leading the Controller's Office. I have managed the Operations and Technical Services Division to review contracts for a budget over \$4 Billion dollars. I've worked on the city's Legislative side and briefed Council Members on the Council agenda. This training and experience has prepared me to identify issues immediately, which will allow me to sound the alarm to both the Mayor and Council. I've worked for 3 Council Members and 2 Controllers, and I can perform the job on day 1. I have the knowledge and experience.

CITY FINANCES: The appropriate role of the City Controller is to serve as the Chief Financial Officer and watchdog over city finances to superintend the city's finances. The Controller takes a conservative approach in projecting revenues because the Controller certifies the availability of funds. If funds are not available the Controller will not sign off or approve and will sound the alarm when the city approaches a fiscal cliff.

ADMINISTRATION: As city Controller I will bring full transparency to the Controller's Office, audit any and all city departments, and review city contracts with a fine tooth comb. I will meet with organizations and community groups and department directors to discuss my concerns about the budget and financial stability of the city. After a thorough audit of city departments, I will meet with Department Directors to offer my recommendations and guidance to improve services by presenting forecasts and evaluating strategies and outcomes.

Website: ShannanforHouston.com

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WWW.LWVHOUSTON.ORG



Chris Hollins

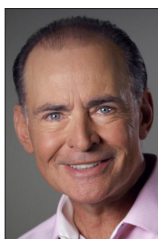
BACKGROUND: I'm running for City Controller to provide a sound financial and policy foundation for a well-run, modern, and efficient city government. I will work hard to safeguard our tax dollars from fraud, waste and abuse, to invest our city funds safely and wisely, and to recommend best practices from major cities around the globe to make our government work for every Houstonian. In the private sector, I've worked with multinational accounting firms to help large government agencies create multi-billion dollar budgets, cut costs, and increase revenues. As Harris County Clerk in 2020, I created the budget for and led the most efficient and accessible election in the history of Texas – in the middle of the pandemic. I currently serve on the METRO Board of Directors, helping to oversee its \$1.8 billion budget and shape its \$7 billion expansion plan. I will use my professional and public service experience to help the city deliver more for Houston families in these tough economic times.

CITY FINANCES: The City Controller is an independently elected official who serves as the city's Chief Financial Officer and the taxpayers' watchdog over city finances. I will work closely with the Mayor and City Council – and hold them accountable when necessary – to ensure sound fiscal policies in every aspect of city government. I will bring more transparency to city finances to provide a solid foundation for decision-making by the Mayor and City Council and for advocacy by the public. I will use

Website: www.ChrisHollins.com

the Controller's financial auditing powers to identify waste, fraud and abuse in city government. I will use the Controller's performance auditing powers to ensure city departments and programs are meeting their objectives – and benchmark those practices against best practices from across the globe. I will use the power of the office to organize public pressure on our elected officials to hold bad actors accountable, solve problems, and protect our tax dollars.

ADMINISTRATION: I will execute an aggressive program of financial audits to uncover existing fraud, waste, and abuse, combined with a strong set of financial controls to prevent future fraud, waste, and abuse. I will work to increase transparency in city operations, including upgrading our data collection and analytics capacity. But we won't stop there. The City Controller is also charged with evaluating the performance of city operations and can serve as an incubator of new ideas and best practices for modern, efficient local government. In the same way we reinvisioned the role of the chief elections officer, transforming it from that of a restrained county administrator into a champion for democracy, we will reinvent the Controller's Office to be Houston's Chief Innovation Office – making sure that our city is running at peak efficiency and investing more in you, in your family, in your neighborhood, and in every neighborhood across Houston.



Orlando Sanchez

BACKGROUND: I'm running for Controller because the City's financial status and system of internal controls are in serious disarray. Overspending and financial mismanagement has gone unchecked for over a decade under the control of the current Administration and few meaningful audits have been completed. I have served 6 years on Houston's City Council and served on the Budget Committee. I served 12 years as Harris County treasurer, winning numerous awards and recognition for providing transparency to the voters of Harris County. I served as vice-chair of the Legislative Affairs Committee for the County Treasurers Association of Texas and qualified as a certified County Investment Officer. I chair the University of Houston Foundation Board of Trustees and am chair of its Investment Committee. I serve on the Board of Directors of Capital Bank and its Audit and Assets & Liabilities Committees. I am also a member of the Board of Directors of HCA Hospital Northwest.

CITY FINANCES: The City Controller serves as the City's chief financial officer. The Office of the City Controller certifies the availability of funds and the appropriateness of the expenditure prior to City Council approval of City commitments. The Controller invests the City's funds, conducts internal audits of the City's departments and federal grant programs, operates its financial management system, conducts the sale of public improvement and revenue bonds and produces an

Annual Comprehensive Financial Report that is audited by an independent CPA firm. On a long-term basis, I will closely monitor the annual budget and long-term outlook for the City each year, focusing on revenue projections, long-term debt status, spending requirements and certain risk factors. The City's budget and ongoing financial commitments must be kept within boundaries to enable it to meet future obligations without undue hardship or loss of essential services. It will be my job to keep the City within those boundaries.

ADMINISTRATION: As Controller I will use my authority to conduct comprehensive internal audits of all major departments and related entities including all TIRZs, special revenue funds, our airport system and our Water and Wastewater system. These audits will assess internal controls, the accuracy of accounting and operational records, operational efficiency and compliance with policies, rules, regulations and the law. All variances will be thoroughly investigated and disclosed in reports delivered to City Council and available on-line to the public. Similarly, all major City and related entity contracts and agreements will be reviewed for compliance with the law and with City policies, including conflicts of interest. Ongoing agreements such as providing financial incentives based on performance will be reviewed annually for compliance.

Website: www.orlandosanchez.com



LWV HOUSTON'S 2023 VOTER FYI BROCHURE IS AVAILABLE NOW IN MULTIPLE LANGUAGES.

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HOUSTON CITY COUNCIL AT-LARGE

CITY COUNCIL IS HOUSTON'S LEGISLATIVE BODY. MEMBERS ENACT AND ENFORCE ALL ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS; ADOPT THE ANNUAL BUDGET; CONFIRM THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS; AND ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE APPROPRIATION AND ISSUANCE OF BONDS, AWARDING OF CONTRACTS AND APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES OVER \$50,000. LIMITED TO TWO 4-YEAR TERMS.

QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

BACKGROUND: Why are you running for this office? What special skills/experience make you uniquely qualified?

ISSUES: What do you believe are the top three concerns of Houstonians? What measurable actions will you take to address these concerns?

COLLABORATION: How will you work with both the Mayor and District Council Members to address issues that are important to the entire city?

HOUSTON CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE, POSITION 1



Eriq C. Glenn

BACKGROUND: I'm vying for Houston City Council's At-Large Position 1 because I want to see our city & neighborhoods thrive. As a City Planner, I know that can only be achieved by having safe neighborhoods through community policing, faster city services by overhauling the codes and ordinances that govern the services, real economic development at the local level, and serious neighborhood planning. As a lifelong Houstonian, I know our city has boundless potential. My time in the Army taught me the value of strong leadership, a commitment to excellence, and to relentlessly pursue results. I believe these values and hands-on experience make me uniquely qualified and prepared to serve as your Councilmember.

ISSUES: Houstonians' top concerns include flood resilience, neighborhood safety, & illegal dumping. Post Hurricane Harvey, it's clear we must do more about flooding. As your Councilmember, I'll back the Flood Control District's bayou expansion. I'll promote more detention parks and advocate for green and permeable surfaces in new construction to prevent flooding in homes. Safety is vital for thriving city. I will support

overtime pay for patrol cops, detectives & additional funding for more Police cadet classes. I believe that if we want 24/7 security, we need to have the same staffing level in HPD at night as we have in the day. I'll actively support & attend National Night Out, & the Positive Interaction Program to build trust between communities & law enforcement. Illegal dumping is out of control. To address this, I'll back increased investment in HPD's Major Offenders Division, which targets the criminals behind largescale dumping. I'll also push for city reforms that enhance efficiency.

COLLABORATION: As your future At-Large Councilmember, I am guided by your constituents' bill of rights, which enshrines your priorities in city hall. I'll champion open communication channels and regular coordination meetings between the Mayor's office, District Council Members, and myself. Frequent updates, information sharing, and collaborative brainstorming will help ensure we remain aligned and focused on issues vital to the entire city.

Website: Eriqglenn.com



Julian Ramirez

BACKGROUND: I'm running to serve. I'm a semi-retired, financially stable, 33-year attorney. I don't need this job or the money that comes with it. I don't have any business partners to reward with city contracts. I only want to make our city safer, our streets and infrastructure better, and our government more functional for everyone. Like others, I've grown disillusioned with the cronyism and inefficiency that seems to pervade city hall. We deserve better. Rather than sit at home and complain, I've decided to work to make things better. For 27 years I partnered with the Houston Police Department to prosecute violent crimes and public corruption in Harris County at the DA's Office. The experience and insights I gained have given me an unmatched perspective on the problems in our city. I believe I can use this knowledge to benefit the city. With my sincere desire to do some good for our community, great things can happen. I hope you will give me the chance.

ISSUES: Residents want to be safer, travel better roads and repair our infrastructure. We have fewer officers today than we had 20 years ago, resulting in poor response times and too much crime. I will fight for more academy classes and to keep our experienced officers on the force and out of retirement. We must fully fund the Forensic Science Center (our crime lab). Delays in processing evidence clog our court dockets, delay justice, and cause more crime as defendants on bond commit additional

crimes while awaiting trial. Fixing our crumbling roads must be a priority. Research by Bill King showed that Houston's asphalt purchases have declined for several years, proving what we all know: we're not maintaining our roads. We must set a goal of resurfacing at least 400 road miles every year. This summer, more than 500 water main breaks have resulted in millions of gallons of water lost. I will fight to end the practice of robbing our infrastructure funds to pay for less important things.

COLLABORATION: An at-large CM represents all residents. In our strong mayor government, we must elect at-large CM's who will be strong, independent voices advocating for basic city services, less waste, and against cronyism. I'll support the mayor on measures that improve the efficient delivery of basic city services. As an at-large CM, I will respect the role of the DM, as the chosen representative, to lead on advocating for district needs. I will support, not supplant, each DM. The ballot proposition to allow 3 council members to place an item on the agenda is a step in the right direction, allowing the council to drive the agenda at times. In addition to the issues listed above, I will seek to promote a business-friendly environment that will encourage economic growth, reduce the cost to develop housing, support a sunset review of ordinances, and enact ethics reform. I've tried hundreds of cases, advocating for victims, and I'm ready to advocate for all of us. I hope you'll give me that chance.

Website: www.julianramirezforhouston.com



Melanie Miles

BACKGROUND: I'm running for Houston City Council, specifically At-Large #1, to address pressing challenges and bring positive change. I've actively engaged with civic clubs and residents, even challenging the City's Planning Department and winning. As a small business owner, lawyer, wife, mother, and community advocate, my skills include fiscal responsibility, accountability, and strategic planning. I have a degree in computer information systems and a minor in business finance. Prior to law school I worked as a systems engineer for EDS and Enron. During my chairmanship of the Sheriff's Civil Service Commission, I implemented programs to insure equal treatment for all employees. I have been endorsed by Houston Police Officer's Union; Harris County Sheriff's Deputies and every law enforcement agency that has endorsed in this race. I'm dedicated to representing all residents, promoting transparency, and ensuring government serves its people. My vision is a unified, growing, and inclusive Houston.

ISSUES: As a candidate for Houston City Council At-Large, I recognize three major concerns: 1. Public Safety: Houstonians demand safety, and I'll advocate for increased investment in law enforcement, community policing, and addressing root causes of crime. 2. Infrastructure: Our roads, public transportation, and

utilities need improvement. I'll work for more funding, efficient project delivery, and sustainable solutions to enhance mobility and services. 3. Affordable Housing: Rising housing costs affect many. I'll promote affordable housing initiatives, incentivize affordable unit construction, and protect tenant rights. These priorities, along with education, healthcare, sustainability, and economic development, will ensure an equitable Houston. As your City Council member, I'll collaborate with residents, stakeholders, and organizations to address district-specific needs and create a prosperous, inclusive city.

COLLABORATION: I will collaborate closely with both the Mayor and District Council Members to address city-wide issues.

My track record demonstrates this commitment. For instance, I successfully represented Riverside Terrace against a historic district designation, showing violations of ordinances and laws. I engaged with city council members and the mayor, leading to the measure's withdrawal. Similarly, I challenged vague language in the Conservation District ordinance, advocating for community input. This resulted in changes and a pilot project, with my input sought for a model ordinance language. I will bring the same dedication to ensure all Houstonians' concerns are heard and respected.

Website: www.milesforhouston.com



Kendall Baker

BACKGROUND: I am a native Houstonian ready to serve. I am an elected Trustee to HISD. I'll use nearly forty years of public service experience to the City of Houston to make a positive impact, address important local concerns and represent the interest of fellow residents. I've always been a contributor to the betterment of humanity and help shape our future. I bring 25 years of direct City of Houston management experience including establishing the 311 Helpline and the 911 emergency network. I am a 30 year member of the Houston Ministers Against Crime which works side by side with the Houston Police Department and other adjacent police agencies. I have volunteered in the community all of my adult life including being board member to the HOA, providing jobs and life coaching to the entire community. I have a very innovative skillset that involves city government experience, emergency management that includes being a Citizen Emergency Response Team member and catastrophic insurance adjuster.

ISSUES: Crime, Infrastructure, and Finance. For Crime: I would support hiring more police officers to help secure our expansive city and fully fund police and fire departments. Improve the crime lab operations. Review the ShotSpotter project for its effectiveness. For crime I'd would also consider expanding the usage of drones to assist first responders in identifying the criminal element quicker. Also, I would advocate for more

citizen involvement making it more convenient to report criminal activity. For Infrastructure: I would work closely with the Department of Public Works and Engineering on projects to continue to mitigate flooding, expedite street, storm-sewer, water main and pot-hole repair, I'd also improve solid-waste services. For Finance: I would suggest using the zero based budgeting structure per department per fiscal year, stop wasting taxpayer dollars and be more transparent on where and how money is being spent for example the drainage fee. Maintain a balanced fiscal budget.

COLLABORATION: Collaboration is key. My experience includes working directly for 3 Houston Mayors while employed with the City of Houston for 29 years. Since this seat covers the entire city, I will be a strong voice for the District Council Members in assuring their individual district needs are met. I will also make sure that the Mayor is held accountable to every decision that is made as not to cut the District Council Member's budget. I will be sure and vote according to the needs of tax payers first. I would work very closely with the District Council Members since they are the closest to the citizens they represent. My scope of collaborating would always include all citizens of Houston including educating and involving youth participation. I will also ensure that all Houstonians have access to my office to reach me 24/7.

Website: www.bakerforhouston.com



IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Texas law does not allow voters to access information or personal notes using electronic devices (such as mobile phones or tablets) while at the polling place. However, you may take printed or handwritten notes into the voting booth, including a printed copy of this Voters Guide.



Conchita Reyes

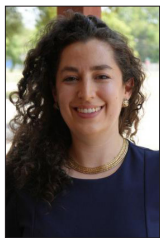
BACKGROUND: I am running for office because the time is right. My family has been in Houston since 1926 and has taught me the importance of being involved in the community. My role model has been my aunt, former City Councilmember and Mayor Pro-Tem Gracie Saenz, which is the seat that I am running for (30 years later). I am proud to say that I bring over 20 years of accounting experience to the table, including valuable time spent working in the Houston Controller's office. I have learned to think outside the box, how to negotiate deals, and detect fraudulent activities. Alongside of that, I am a small business owner, so I can relate to a lot of the issues that small business owners are going through. I am the best candidate because 1) I am not a perpetual candidate, this is my first campaign, 2) my voting record is consistent in vote and party, and 3) I have already developed relationships in the community.

ISSUES: The top three concerns I have for Houstonians are budget, public safety, and infrastructure. To address the upcoming budget crisis, the critical items that I believe we would need to focus on are 1) diversifying revenue streams, 2) expenditure review and efficiency, 3) collaboration with stakeholders, and 4) transparency and accountability. To address public safety concerns, I would like to champion more

community outreach training, plus have citizens provide testimony in front of HPD cadet classes. I will also advocate for enhanced training and de-escalation techniques, as well as independent oversight and accounting, and community policing. Tackling road conditions and traffic congestion starts with prioritizing preventative maintenance to keep roads in good shape, reducing long-term repair costs. I was the only candidate in my race to sign a petition which would establish restructuring for H-GAC to provide equitable funding to Houston and Harris County for flooding.

COLLABORATION: I plan to work closely with the mayor and district council members to ensure our priorities and goals are aligned and transparently coordinated. I pride myself on being able to work on both sides of the aisle to get things done, and by building a solid working relationship with the mayor and district council members, I am confident that we can make significant progress in addressing the critical challenges that our city is facing. I look forward to working with my fellow council members as there is a referendum that would allow three city council members the authority to put items on the council agenda.

Website: www.voteconchitareyes.com



Leah Wolfthal

BACKGROUND: I believe in the Houston dream: that everyone, from any background, should be able to build a full life, and thrive. We must strengthen our approach to core city services and address issues around transparency and conflicts of interest that are undercutting our City's financial health. I've dedicated my career to public service, working and learning in fields that impact Houstonians' lives. Most recently I was the Executive Director of a nonprofit addressing root causes of neighborhood-based criminal justice involvement, connecting youth with trauma and mental health counseling, career exploration, and basic needs services. I've done the hard work on-the-ground, but also successfully collaboratively designed and executed big-picture strategy and partnerships to improve communities.

ISSUES: Safety, cost of living (housing, transportation, etc.), and basic infrastructure (e.g. roads, flood mitigation, sewage systems). The City's significant budget deficit unfortunately impacts all of this. On infrastructure, there is more federal funding out there that we could receive; let's strengthen our efforts with our Congressional colleagues to advocate for that funding, in addition to making sure we prepare grant applications collaboratively and not in silos, to increase our chances of getting grant awards. On cost of living, let's make sure the existing tax dollars that are already supposed to go

towards affordable housing are actually going to that purpose, and that our regulatory framework doesn't unintentionally hinder affordability. Let's consider putting together Houston's first citywide plan for housing affordability for years to come. On safety, let's support police having the resources they need, as well as addressing underlying causes of crime.

COLLABORATION: I'm certified and trained as a mediator, and this helps me identify values or human needs underneath peoples' conflicting policy positions, strong emotions, and at times blame/shame mindsets. Relationships function best when there is basic respect and when trust can be built over time. In my experience working in nonprofits, I've built agreements with people from different backgrounds across the city such as business leaders, faith leaders, community advocates and residents. On issues important to the entire city, like addressing our budget deficit and public safety, there are many different opinions about what to do. My approach to getting things done is to bring people together despite dividing lines to listen deeply, share perspectives, and come up with the best path forward – together. I would look forward to working with other Council Members and the Mayor, as well as with community members and stakeholders, to learn from each other so we can build solutions together.

Website: www.leahforhouston.com



Willie Davis

BACKGROUND: I'm running because I want to further the Quality of Life in Houston's future. I want to improve Public Safety, the Infrastructure and Balance our City Budget. My skills are many, I've served Houston Community over 35yrs, I controlled over 2 million dollar budgets annually and I've been in the City Run Off twice back to back. No other candidate has this record.

Website: www.williedavisforcitycouncil.com

ISSUES: The top three concerns are Public Safety (Crime), the Infrastructure to include Flooding and a Balance Budget. In short to address these issues you have to have a Council Member that can present plans to the Mayor and the Council.

COLLABORATION: To address these issues, we must have city town hall meetings all over the city to assure equal voices and input.



Nick Hellyar

BACKGROUND: From my experience working as a director of constituent services in city hall, a small business owner, and a leader in my community's neighborhood association, I've become keenly aware of our city's problems, whether they be our inadequate response to crime, the need for more flood protection investments, or the skyrocketing cost of housing. I've also learned of the many ways we can address these issues. I'm running because I want the opportunity to use this knowledge to help build a safer, more prosperous, and healthier Houston for us all.

ISSUES: (1) Crime It's clear that we are not doing enough to keep Houstonians safe. Our population has grown by hundreds of thousands since 1997, and yet, over this same period, our police force has reduced in size by 300 officers. If elected, I'll advocate for hiring more police to improve response times, deter crime, and ensure justice is served. (2) Flooding After Hurricane Harvey devastated our city, we came together as a city to say "never again." Now, we must make sure we follow through with

that promise and build the infrastructure we need so that no hurricane is ever allowed to flood our homes again. Fulfilling that commitment starts with fully funding all planned flood mitigation projects and increasing the share of the city devoted to green space. (3) Roads Many of our streets and roads are in poor condition. In office, I'll champion accelerated pothole repairs, road resurfacings, and safety enhancements.

COLLABORATION: Because of my 17 years of involvement in Houston's local government and community affairs, when I get into office, I'll be able to hit the ground running, working on the issues that matter most to Houstonians. I'll be able to meet with my fellow council members and other key public officials, many of whom I know well, to immediately get to work on critical local issues. This process will be informed by my time working for former mayor Annise Parker, who I am proud to have the endorsement of. It will also be informed by my time in the district council office of James Rodriguez, where I saw firsthand the needs of district council members.

Website: www.nickhellyar.com



Marina Angelica Coryat

BACKGROUND: For over 30 years, I have worked with five Houston mayors while in the Mayor's Citizens' Assistance Office, Housing & Community Development, and Solid Waste Departments (as the Public Information Manager/Council Liaison) plus served as State Representative Senfronia Thompson's Communications Director. With an Ivy League degree in Government, and as an experienced servant leader in our city, I can hit the ground running on "Day 1" to address the complex challenges/opportunities that Houston faces. I have a proven track record. As an entrepreneur, I understand first-hand the challenges that business owners face. With your vote, I will be that Council Member who understands governance and has a heart for the people of Houston. Furthermore, I am one who is locally and globally minded. I will take my government, business, and three foreign languages in the At-Large position to better position Houston domestically and internationally. I will listen and be YOUR voice.

ISSUES: 1) Public Safety I would encourage neighborhood-oriented policing. We need to make sure that the Police and Fire Departments have the equipment and assistance to do their jobs. One thing that I can do is to work with various policing agencies (Constables, Sheriff, METRO Police, etc.) to have a more coordinated effort such as to be on the same database and for strategic purchases of equipment. This could widen the coverage for law enforcement and also save money. 2. Flooding and Infrastructure Have a maintenance schedule for the repair

and replacement of pipes, and clearing debris from culverts and ditches. I would work with the government and stakeholders to address solutions for flooding. 3) Safe, efficient, and timely delivery of city services such as recycling and trash pickup, repairing potholes and not having to boil water. Advocate for more solid waste routes during the budget process by purchasing more trucks and hiring drivers. Revisit departments' maintenance plans.

COLLABORATION: I will use my experience to collaborate with the Mayor and District Members to come up with ideas and help implement programs in the City of Houston. As part of the Solid Waste Management Department's Executive Team, I sat at the table with the Department's Director and Deputy Directors to convey ideas and be a voice for employees and the public. We thought through the implications of operational decisions and how they would affect all. I helped build out the programs and conveyed the information to the Mayor, City Council, media, department employees, and the citizens. I worked with neighborhoods, super neighborhood councils, and other community groups. I attended countless town hall meetings to share info and get a pulse for the community. I will continue to do this as an At-Large Council Member. I was part of the activated emergency management team for hurricanes and tropical storms, so I bring NIMS/crisis management, decision-making, and communications skills with me to Council.

Website: MarinaForHouston.com



Danielle Keys Bess

BACKGROUND: I am running for Houston City Council, At-Large #2 to offer an innovative and community-centered prospective for persons and/or communities that have historically been marginalized, while providing a results-driven, solutions-oriented approach in addressing the needs of the City of Houston constituency. I have worked in grassroots campaigning and government for 20 years and I am a licensed Real Estate Sales Professional for 16 years, which has given me an up-close view to the needs of all communities. In my experience I have worked directly with the City of Houston on affordable housing initiatives that have placed over 100 families in new construction, single-family properties with a 0% foreclosure rating. I have also served as the project manager and/or consultant to over \$300 million in both public and/or private funding for community development improvements towards infrastructure and/or redevelopment.

ISSUES: A sustainable budget, infrastructure improvements, and public safety are three major concerns of Houstonians. *Sustainable Budget: FY2026 presents hardships that could result in underfunding of the city budget, I intend to seek public/private partnerships from entities who align with the values and objectives of the constituency. *Infrastructure Improvements: I plan to utilize the infrastructure funding from the federal government's infrastructure bill along with

municipal partnerships to have a thorough implementation of infrastructure improvements, which will be the result of data-driven research with prioritized planning. *Public Safety: This year the City of Houston received over \$120 million in federal funding for de-escalation training of police officers and internal/external mental health services in partnership NAMI. Through the sourcing of this funding we can properly address public safety needs, and use infrastructure funding to increase lighting in high crime areas.

COLLABORATION: As an At-Large Council Member I intend to speak to the unique diversity of all Houstonians, as one who can differentiate the issues that we share in common between those issues that are distinctly different. In my career and service to the community I am required to act in the fiduciary capacity of both a collaborator and an advocate for the needs of others. I will utilize this skill set to bring diversity of thought to my future discussions/meetings with the Mayor and fellow Council Members. Through this effort I am optimistic that these measures will result in positive outcomes to meet the needs of Houstonians in every corner across the City of Houston; bringing results that can be measured in ways that are practical in its timeline/implementation and transparent in its processes for true accountability.

Website: www.bessforhouston.com



Holly Flynn Vilaseca

BACKGROUND: I am running because I wish to utilize my unique skill-set to deliver results for the people of Houston and ensure we are honoring every tax-payer dollar while spending in a fiscally responsible manner. We must strive towards ensuring every child, every family, every Houstonian can live, work and play in safe and healthy communities that exist in every corner of our great city. Growing up in an immigrant, working-class family taught me to be resourceful and relentless. I was the last of six and the first to go to college in my family, obtaining degrees from the University of Michigan and Columbia University. Moreover, I'm the only candidate with elected experience, having provided oversight to HISD's multi-billion-dollar budget and having led during difficult times. I am grateful for the opportunities we have here in Houston. I've made my life here. It's time to level up, make tough decisions and get our operational processes and financial situation in order.

ISSUES: 1. Safe & Healthy Communities Create a smart public safety plan to reduce crime Hire more police officers and give them the resources More funding for the city's Forensic Science Center Increase resources for at-risk youth Invest in mental health services Expand green space and air/water improvement Improve access to health care through partnerships 2. Fiscal Accountability Maximize tax dollars and eliminate wasteful spending in the budget Ensure that community input is used

in the City budgeting and spending Streamline City operations and find additional revenue streams Increase transparency in city spending and contracting 3. Make City Hall Work for You Streamline the City permit and approval process Ensure that City programs and services are staffed appropriately Crackdown on illegal dumping Ensure funding to maximize our ability to fix city streets, sidewalks, and drainage Maximize federal and state funds for local needs.

COLLABORATION: Our next City Council and Mayor need to work together to create a plan to ensure the City of Houston's financial health is stable over the next six to eight years. It's vitally important that we continue to move forward sustainably, and build upon the progress we've made thus far. I'm committed to working with my colleagues on City Council and the new Mayor to create a structurally balanced budget that meets the needs of our residents and our city for the decade to come. As a dedicated member of the city council, it is also imperative that we foster collaboration between policymakers and subject matter experts when addressing issues faced by citizens. For example, I will collaborate with leading engineers to tackle the challenges posed by flooding. It is unacceptable for any Houston resident to experience flooding in their homes due to inadequate infrastructure.

Website: hollyforhouston.com



Election Information You Need
LWVHouston.org



Obioha "Obes" Nwabara

BACKGROUND: I've chosen to run for Houston City Council because Houston has given me so many opportunities to become the successful person I am today and I want to help pave the way for the next generation of Houstonians. I feel the best way I can do that is as a city councilmember. City council, at its core, is a procurement-based position. We use the city's budget to procure services, often via the request for proposal (RFP) process. City council is also responsible for acting as an enforcer when vendors do not abide by the contracts they agree to. I am a procurement professional and have been for the better part of the last decade. During that time, I have completed dozens of contracts, managed multiples RFPs, and have acted as an enforcer to ensure all of my suppliers did right by my employers and my teams. No one else running for any race this year can match my skill or experience in the most key part of the position.

ISSUES: I think the top 3 concerns of Houstonians are public safety, infrastructure, and traffic. I'll work to solve our public safety issues by working with HPD to get more community

Website: www.obesfortwo.com

policing. It's so important that the police can see themselves in the communities they serve and that will increase trust between the community and HPD. That increased trust will lead to better relations and less crime. We will solve our infrastructure woes by passing Prop. B which will allow us to restructure our representation on the Houston-Galveston Area Council. That increased representation will get us the money we deserve from that council and give us the funds to fix our roads, bridges, and water. Finally, those same H-GAC funds will allow us to expand our public transit, thus reducing traffic across the city.

COLLABORATION: 2024 may be the first city council session where council members can place items on the council agenda. This means that collaboration between council and the mayor will be more important than ever. I will work with my fellow members to pass items that solve district needs because shoring up district needs will benefit the entire city and those district members will then be more willing to work with me to pass citywide measures.

HOUSTON CITY COUNCIL AT-LARGE, POSITION 3



Richard Cantu

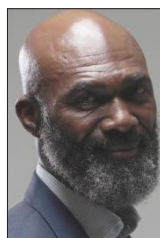
BACKGROUND: I want to bring my 30-year public service career to city hall so that we can revitalize our city's neighborhoods to be clean and safe, invest in infrastructure that emphasizes flood mitigation and improved mobility, and invest in our youth like the future of our city depends on it - because it does. I have expertise in Neighborhood Revitalization, Crime Prevention and Youth Development, as well as solid experience in public finance/budgeting, project management, constituent services, and community partnerships. I have the education, training, experience and skills to hit the ground running on day one!

ISSUES: PUBLIC SAFETY - we need to expand on Community Policing strategies that leverage community partnerships to keep our neighborhoods safe. We must coordinate with all public safety agencies in our region to multiply our forces and work smarter, INFRASTRUCTURE/FLOOD MITIGATION - Smart Investments must be made in public infrastructure and should always seek to improve flood mitigation and storm detention facilities, and the BUDGET CRISIS - needs to be addressed with a

Website: www.RichardCantu.org

sense of urgency in order to bring spending under control. The city must seek innovation to streamline city services to be more efficient and to maximize the return on investment of taxpayer dollars.

COLLABORATION: I will work collaboratively with the Mayor and District Council Members to advance improvement projects and support the effective delivery of city services. I have served on public boards and commissions (HCDE & TIRZ 21) and understand the importance of governing with a focus on responsible stewardship of Tax Dollars while being responsive to community residents, and business owners. I will specifically work to support district council members who are focused on improving public safety, neighborhood revitalization and youth development programs and services. As an At-Large Council Member, I would keep a regional perspective in our public policy and projects. I understand that to be successful, our city must work strategically with our partners at the county, regional (HGAC), state and federal level to leverage our limited resources.



James Joseph

BACKGROUND: I'm running to bring positive change and equity to our community. With a decade in urban planning, I'll address development challenges while prioritizing community voices. I've chaired nonprofits, revitalized neighborhoods, and engaged with local colleges, enhancing collaboration for better policies. My skills in policy analysis, community organizing, and equitable governance uniquely qualify me to address Houston's diverse needs and advocate for transparent, inclusive governance. I'm dedicated to creating a more just, sustainable, and prosperous future for all.

ISSUES: I believe the top concerns of Houstonians are affordable housing, equitable education, and public safety. To address affordable housing, I'll advocate for incentives to developers for affordable units, promote mixed-income communities, and allocate city funds for affordable housing projects. For equitable education, I'll push for increased funding for underprivileged schools, expanded access to early childhood

Website: www.jamesforhouston

education, and mentorship programs. To ensure public safety, I'll support community policing, mental health crisis teams, and de-escalation training for police. These actions will drive progress on these critical issues, fostering a more inclusive and thriving city.

COLLABORATION: I am committed to a collaborative approach with the Mayor and District Council Members to effectively address city-wide issues. By fostering open lines of communication and regular meetings, we can align our priorities and share insights to develop comprehensive solutions. I will engage in respectful dialogue, acknowledging the unique challenges faced by each district while emphasizing our shared goal of a better Houston. Together, we can pool resources, expertise, and community input to formulate policies that benefit the entire city. By valuing diverse viewpoints and promoting consensus, we can overcome challenges and create a more vibrant and equitable Houston for all.



Casey Curry

BACKGROUND: Many of you know me from my more than a decade on Houston television as a broadcast meteorologist. I was the trusted expert for many Houstonians for severe weather events such as Hurricane Harvey, dangerous heat waves and winter storms. My scientific knowledge and expertise are needed now more than ever. I will consider climate change, disaster preparedness and weather in every policy decision facing our city. I'm running for Houston City Council At-Large 3 because I want to make a difference for every Houstonian. I am not a career politician. I am running to bring a fresh perspective to city government. Recently, I have been working for a global firm creating and managing STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) education programs in Houston and across the country. I serve on the Board of the Greater Houston Women's Chamber of Commerce and understand the perspective of business owners and others working to grow our economy.

ISSUES: Public Safety: We need more first responders, and they need proper equipment to do their job of protecting Houstonians. The city has limited funds – we must invest in equipment, technology, and programs with demonstrated benefit to our communities. Infrastructure/Storm Resiliency: There is

no singular fix for our infrastructure. The practice of deferred maintenance is leading to catastrophic failures like city wide boil water notices and others. I will prioritize maintaining our existing infrastructure. I will also work to incorporate green solutions, recoup intended disaster funds and prioritize our most vulnerable neighborhoods. Economic Development: Study after study shows there is such a mismatch between our workforce and the skills needed in our growing economy. I will work with labor, community, education, and business leaders increase the pipeline of folks prepared for good paying, meaningful jobs that also have a positive impact on the health of our economy.

COLLABORATION: I am realistic and know we will not always agree on every issue. There will be times where we will have to compromise and meet in the middle. I am a true team player! Most of my adult life, I worked in television news – both behind the scenes and in-front of the camera. News stories and weathercasts don't make air if the team isn't working together, supporting each other, and holding each other accountable. This is true for city government too. We must work together as a team for the betterment of ALL Houstonians.

Website: caseycurryforhouston.com



Twila Carter

BACKGROUND: As a longtime Houstonian, I am motivated and committed to serving the city that I love. I am known for my record of honesty, consistency and persistence, which I believe are critical components that should define the Houston City Council. My integrity is backed by my reputation in all corners of Houston. My work across the city in my professional career, provided a great perspective of our city and the need for business minded representation.

ISSUES: Safe Neighborhoods – Safe communities are prosperous communities. I am committed to fully funding law enforcement and will make sure they have the resources needed to keep our families safe. Lower Taxes/Stop Wasteful Spending – Property taxes are too high. As a member of City Council, I will fight to lower the tax burden on Houston families. I know that

tax dollars are your dollars. I will be a fiscal watchdog who will oppose wasteful government spending. Infrastructure/ Flood Mitigation – Houston needs long term investments in infrastructure like roads, sidewalks, flood mitigation and proper drainage. As our city continues to grow, I will ensure that it grows strategically.

COLLABORATION: We all have the same concerns for our community and must work together, not only with the Mayor/District Council Members, but with the private sector. Collaboration is the key to successful representation. When we work together, our impact is greater. I believe we can always find common ground and work together; often this requires the ability and mindset to move to common ground.

Website: twilacarter.com



Donnell Cooper

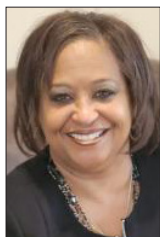
BACKGROUND: Before throwing my hat in this political arena, I needed to make sure that my family would be on board. The first person, I discussed it with my beautiful wife. She asked, "Why?" I told her that, my experiences as HCC Campus Director and my service to the community as the President of the Greater Houston Frontier's Club; now is the time to expand my service role. She said, "Don't tell me about your Legacy of Service, but why do you want to run for a citywide office?" I want to share my Legacy of Service with each of Houston's families. Because we know strong families make strong communities. As communities get stronger the future of the city gets brighter. As a God-fearing family man, educator, and community organizer, I am running for one reason: A BRIGHTER FUTURE for HOUSTON.

ISSUES: Fiscal Responsibility: Wasteful spending with little to no accountability is an issue. As a council member, I will make sure that city leaders are investing in areas that will benefit all of us. I will ensure that our tax dollars are spent wisely, and that our city's budget is transparent to all citizens. We need to ensure that we are living within our means and not creating unnecessary

debt that only benefit a select few. Public Safety: Everyone deserves to feel safe and secure in their community. As a council member, I will work to ensure that our law enforcement officials have the resources and training they need to keep our streets safe. We need to promote community policing programs, increase accountability, and provide proper support to prevent crime & help reduce recidivism rates. Economic Opportunities: Our citizens need access to good paying jobs, workforce development and educational opportunities. We need to promote investments MWBEs & support entrepreneurs.

COLLABORATION: James Baldwin once wrote, "A child cannot be taught by anyone who despises [them]..." What this quote brings to mind with the thought of collaboration among municipal leaders in Houston is that we should keep in mind that our service to the city should be focused on the future. We must know that how we work today, will have a lasting legacy. To work together we must be mindful of each other's humanity and desire to do what's right for our children and families.

Website: www.cooperforhouston.com



Ericka McCutcheon

BACKGROUND: Houston is at the crossroads for good principled leadership. I am running to help mitigate Urban City pitfalls like obstructive policies, budget shortfalls, crime, crumbling infrastructure, and the like; to be that voice that supports commonsense policies that will build up Houston for a successful and prosperous future. Professional Background • Minority Women Business Owner (MWB) • Owner/President of The Dunamis Group LLC -General contracting commercial and residential - construction and remodeling, specializing in dialysis, medical clinics, and health care. • Licensed Insurance Agent in Texas, Florida, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. Retirement Specialist having extensive training in Medicare and Long-Term Care, and Critical Benefits. (Captured Banker's Life) • Licensed and Certified Realtor in Texas (Royce Realty Broker). • License and ordained by Rhema Ministerial Association International (RMAI) since 1993. Education • B.A. Grand Canyon University -Christian and Biblical Studies

ISSUES: 1.) Balanced Budget - Balancing the budget based on Zero-based budgeting versus Centralized or Participatory budgeting. 2.) Public Safety & Crime - We need more Police Officers. They need training and updated tools and technology to do their jobs while serving the community safely and efficiently. Public safety is everyone's responsibility so education on how not to become

Website: www.erickaforhouston.com

a victim of crime is important also and we must proactively educate communities on how to best work with LEOs against criminal activity in communities. 3.) Crumbling Infrastructure: Getting Rebuild Houston Projects moving faster. Work with the procurements processes; public planning and permitting. Some of the projects are getting done, however, it is taking too long. We must move these projects along through faster contract approvals, permitting, and payments. People are ready to work, but the slow and delayed processes make it difficult for prime contractors to retain subcontractors.

COLLABORATION: I believe the role of the City Government is to provide for defense and safety for our city through the enforcement of city laws and ordinances and to promote the general welfare through necessary City services as outlined in the charter. The Councilmember is elected by the people and authorized to have legislative power to pass ordinances, rules, and regulations governing the operations of city departments. The council is to confirm the department head appointed by the mayor. I will represent the people to the Mayor to accomplish the necessary goals and needs for the communities. I support the Charter Amendment allowing Agenda Items by 3 City Council Members.



Richard Nguyen

BACKGROUND: I still have the desire and passion to serve. I'm running At-Large this time to represent all in the city. My previous service makes me the most experienced candidate in this race.

ISSUES: My concerns are 1) Public Safety (Police Officers, Firefighters), 2) Quality of Life (health, employment, education), 3) Infrastructure (streets/drainage/flooding). Houston needs to

hire more first-responders, bring more jobs to the community, hire locally, build more green space, parks, retention ponds to drain water, less parking lots to prevent standing water.

COLLABORATION: True Non-Partisanship. Put the needs of the citizens first. I came from a humble background; I have no ego; I am not self-serving.



Bernard "Bernardo" Amadi

BACKGROUND: Graduated with Bachelors degree from the University Houston. Worked corporate environment. Found and operated business in Houston. Marketed Houston as a destination center..as sales manager at Greatdr Hkijston partnership

Website: www.bernardoposition3.com

ISSUES: Transportation Environment SFTEY AND CRIME

COLLABORATION: Recognizing that no one person can. Solve the challenges facing the city. Setting up a continued board or age cy to continue meet and strategies on solution



Ethan Michelle Ganz

BACKGROUND: I'm running because our city needs change. We need leaders who are forward-thinking and courageous. The state has been passing laws that attack Harris County and Houston, limiting the powers of our municipalities and even taking over HISD. We can't let this continue; we need trustworthy leaders who won't back down to state-level bullies. Representation matters, and that's why I'm in this race. As a working-class, trans-non-binary individual, I've experienced living paycheck to paycheck and have faced systemic oppression and hate. I understand the struggles of not having access to healthcare and relying on public transportation and a bicycle in a car-centric city. When you vote for me, you're sitting with me at the table, representing the worker, the marginalized, and the unheard. I promise to be your voice and stand with the will of the people, even if it means standing alone. I volunteer, advocate, take direct action, speak out, organize, and strategize to benefit the people.

ISSUES: Defending Democracy-I will uplift the voices of marginalized folks and speak out against disinformation and hate rhetoric. I will stand with the will of the people while the state tries to bully Houston and Harris County, even if I stand alone. We all need to be very concerned about what happened in Austin this year. Housing Accessibility-We have a housing crisis in this city. I plan to create a housing program to address the displacement of folks from gentrification and address slumlords.

Website: www.ganz4hou.com

Resourcing Communities/ Public Safety- We need to start resourcing communities if we want to prevent crime. Scarcity breeds conflict, but police only come after a crime has been committed. In order to prevent crime, we must address the causes of those crimes. The most common cause of crime is scarcity. We need to freeze HPD budget, end the ShotSpotter contract, and use that money to resource communities. This will keep families together, people out of jail, and help build communities.

COLLABORATION: As an At Large CM, I would uplift the needs of each district, and the best way to do that is to not only build relationships with the voters in the district, but also the CM in that district. That way I am as connected as possible to as many voters as possible. The CM should know more about the districts needs and we must have solutions that come from the bottom up. Currently we have a strong Mayoral type of government in this city. There is an initiative on the ballot to allow 3 city council members to get something on the agenda, without needing the Mayor's approval, I support this initiative, just because one person shouldn't have such centralized power in such a large city. However, I intend on building a good relationship with the new Mayor, so that I can represent the people in an effective manner. I am great at relationship building and the building of coalitions, these are the best skills for a CM to have.



Roy Morales

BACKGROUND: Law enforcement leaders ask me to run against the incumbent because she tried to defund the police, stop federal grant money for police protection and eliminate a police academy class. My military service fighting terrorism, my experience at the Houston Emergency Center, and my experience in providing security guard services make me the most qualified law enforcement candidate in this race.

Website: www.roymorales.com

ISSUES: Fighting Crime, Fixing Our Streets and Picking Up The Garbage

COLLABORATION: Collaboration and compromise are key in solving serious problems our city faces. As a former school trustee, I worked with other board members to lower property taxes and still provide world class services to the children.



Letitia Plummer

BACKGROUND: I am seeking re-election for the At-Large Position 4. Throughout my term, I've consistently addressed long-overlooked issues with a data-driven, solution-focused approach. As a result, I have pioneered impactful policies and initiatives, from deploying Mobile Crisis Outreach Teams for mental health emergencies to instituting Apartment Inspection Reform to better support tenants.

ISSUES: Houston residents seek a comprehensive approach to public safety. While a segment of the community advocates for heightened law enforcement visibility, another emphasizes addressing the underlying factors of crime. It's imperative to recognize that these objectives aren't mutually exclusive. Crime should be understood holistically. While investing in understanding and tackling root causes is paramount, the mitigation of violent and severe crimes necessitates bolstered

Website: plummerforhouston.com

support for police. Quality of life is paramount for Houston residents, encompassing a secure and healthful living environment whether that encompasses living in a safe and healthy apartment or home in a neighborhood with clean air and water. This involves working with state and federal agencies. Empowering small businesses is pivotal to Houston's economic vitality. Houston stands not merely as a nexus for startups but as a premier environment where small enterprises can flourish, provided they possess the right tools.

COLLABORATION: With a new administration in place as well as new members on council, open communication between all stakeholders will be essential. Collaborative planning through committees as well as data driven decisions, with input from the public will help the body make uniformed decisions.



John Branch Jr.

BACKGROUND: I am seeking this office because I'm tired of seeing the everyday person in this city not having their voices heard. Every time I turn on the news or watch social media, there's always something going on in this city and it appears that our public officials and "professional candidates" are more interested in sound bites and giving the appearance of strength instead of rolling up the sleeves and getting out in the community to physically making some changes (i.e...picking up trash from illegal dumping activities).

ISSUES: I believe the top 3 concerns of Houstonians are crime, homelessness, and mental health. Regarding crime, I would focus my energy on community policing and an increased presence in our schools as our young people are becoming more targeted by crime in this city (victims of or participants in). I grew up in a suburb outside of Chicago that had community policing and the relationships we had with our law enforcement not only targeted potential bad behavior, but also created a circle

Website: www.johnbranchjrforchtx.com

of trust that allow me and others to talk to police officers if any issues were to arise. Regarding our homeless community, this is a public safety issue because of the mental health component involved (I had one man threatened to kill me because I didn't let him wash my windows). If we are to address this issue before it further becomes about public safety, then mental health has to be at the forefront of treatment and our law enforcement can help facilitate the needed interventions.

COLLABORATION: The main thing I would remember is to address these issues, is the fact that working together is more important than personal glory and praise. Our District Council Members are the ones that are in the community doing the ground work with the residents to address these issues. My responsibility would be to provide extra backing and support for these issues in said community. The issues that I mentioned in the previous question are going to take more than individual district members and I will do all in my power to assist these areas.



Andrew "Drew" Patterson

BACKGROUND: Running for at large position 4.Used to dealing with difficult problems that impact people's lives and reach solutions makes me qualified.

ISSUES: Crime, finances and services which I would review the systems and data, listen to citizens before taking action.

Website: DrewforHouston.com

Decisions and plans will be given to all mayor, city council member and citizens.

COLLABORATION: Communication and explains the solutions to mayor and other council memberts.



Sallie Alcorn

BACKGROUND: I'm running for Houston City Council to serve. There's no other level of government where you can have such a direct impact on people's daily lives. Whether it's helping someone navigate an unusually large water bill, working to strengthen the city's rules on noise, fixing a drainage issue, or voting on funding for public safety -- what happens at City Hall matters to people. I'm running to put my 15+ years of local government experience to work for Houstonians. I am known for advancing measures to strengthen the city's long-term fiscal health and for prioritizing public safety and infrastructure funding. I have a track record of being responsive to every constituent and prepared for every vote. I have built relationships in communities in all corners of the city, and I tackle issues big and small to improve quality of life in neighborhoods.

ISSUES: Crime – I understand public safety is our city's number one responsibility. That's why I will continue to strongly support increased hiring of law enforcement personnel and supporting our officers with overtime initiatives, upgraded equipment and new technology. I will also advocate for increased forensic science center funding so evidence is processed more quickly for trial. Infrastructure – I have never met a street or drainage project I didn't like! I am a strong advocate for projects that keep water out of our homes and make our streets smoother

Website: salliealcorn.com

and safer. I will also champion more funding to construct and improve sidewalks. Quality of life – As chair of the city's Regulatory and Neighborhood Affairs Committee, I have made important changes to ordinances dealing with loud noise, animal welfare, and illegally parked trucks in neighborhoods. I also started the city's first-ever composting pilot program and am a champion for parks and greenspace.

COLLABORATION: I will continue to support district council members in their efforts to improve infrastructure and quality of life in their areas. I think it's important for at-large members to show up and be very visible in all communities. I will keep participating in civic club and super neighborhood meetings across the city; that is how I learn what is most important in the various districts and how I can best support the district members. On the big-picture citywide issues – budget, public safety, transportation, infrastructure – it's important for me to do my research and homework, build consensus with the community and my colleagues, and put ideas into action. I will meet with the mayor to discuss citywide issues I feel are important. After I do my research and vet matters with experts and community stakeholders, I will present the mayor with recommendations to advance. This has proven successful in my first term, and I look forward to keeping up the hard work to move Houston forward.



J. Brad Batteau

BACKGROUND: I would be honored to hold a city council position in office. This will give me the opportunity to illustrate my unique talent in helping to fight crime, help get the homeless off the streets and to make our schools a safe environment for our children.

ISSUES: I believe that there are a plethora of issues that Houstonians are faced with daily. However, the three that I will touch on are the following: 1. Fighting crime in the city is a huge job and it must take all parties involved. I would love to see more police officers on bikes patrolling our neighborhood, local

stores and schools daily. I would love to set up a fundraiser to help pay the officers. 2; The Homeless issues are truly devastating to see. I would love to set up housing for the homeless. 3. As we look at the news media daily we noticed violence in our school. That must stop! I would love to set up programs for trouble teens and their parents. I must educate them on coping skills that will make them a better citizens.

COLLABORATION: I would like to hold daily meetings to address concerns and issues that needs our undivided attention. I believe communication is the key to the city.



Rigo Hernandez

BACKGROUND: I've always had an affinity for politics and just recently decided to get involved in Houston's political scene. I feel like there's too much of the same social circle in Houston with the same bland ideas getting passed on every election cycle. I think city government is meant to serve it's citizens and i just felt like it's just been serving special interests for years now.

ISSUES: Crime Rates: Using data analysis we know the days of the week, times, and areas where crimes rates are highest. Knowing this information we can designate police presence at peak hours to reduce crimes, make communities safer, and make Houston a more peaceful place to live. Taking this approach can lower crime rates significantly. Traffic: I am a strong advocate of public transportation and feel like the decisions that have

been made in the past regarding adding more lanes onto our highways has actually done the opposite from the problem it was supposed to solve. Research has actually shown that adding more lanes gives the perception of more options and thus more cars and the same traffic. You end up right where you started. So more park and rides, more buses, bus routes, equates to less cars on the road.

COLLABORATION: Research. Understanding what the issues are and the options we have are paramount to finding the right solution for the issues we face. I will make sure the facts are laid out so that we can rationally determine what is best for the city of Houston.

Website: rigoforhouston.com

LWV

WWW.LWVHOUSTON.ORG

HOUSTON CITY COUNCIL

CITY COUNCIL IS HOUSTON'S LEGISLATIVE BODY. MEMBERS ENACT AND ENFORCE ALL ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS; ADOPT THE ANNUAL BUDGET; CONFIRM THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS; AND ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE APPROPRIATION AND ISSUANCE OF BONDS, AWARDING OF CONTRACTS AND APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES OVER \$50,000. LIMITED TO TWO 4-YEAR TERMS.

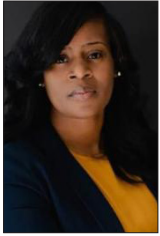
QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

BACKGROUND: Why are you running for this office? What special skills/experience make you uniquely qualified?

ISSUES: What are the three most important issues affecting your District? Explain the specific steps you will take to address them.

CONSTITUENT SERVICES: What specific things will you do to provide ongoing and timely channels of communication and interaction between you and your constituents?

HOUSTON CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT B



Kendra London

BACKGROUND: My journey as a candidate has familiarized me with the multiple hardships and injustices faced by District B residents. I have personally experienced homelessness and have actively participated in housing and assistance programs. My recent decision to step down as the Resident Service Coordinator on a HUD property was driven by my own eyewitness account and the documented mistreatment of tenants, as highlighted in the Houston Chronicle. These life experiences have endowed me with insights into our community's needs.

ISSUES: Over the past five years, I have championed causes related to community safety, fair housing, and environmental justice. Through my efforts, I established and managed a service within Fifth Ward that offers support, education, and resources to families seeking to excel. Collaborating with LINK Houston, Air Alliance Houston, Fair Houston, Houston In Action, Texas Housers, and StopTXDOT I-45, our united front has successfully amplified our voices at the city, county, and state levels.

Website: kendralondon4hou.com

CONSTITUENT SERVICES: Upon being elected, my commitment is unwavering in ensuring that budget allocations and policies tangibly reflect improvements in vital areas like housing, economic development, drainage, community safety, and environmental equity. For over a decade, I've served our community passionately, demonstrating integrity and diligence. I comprehend the value of working relentlessly to secure resources that enrich the quality of life we all deserve. I eagerly anticipate collaborating with stakeholders, community leaders, and residents to forge viable solutions. I will continue the annual Intergenerational Roundtable Discussion amongst the district to stay current with community concerns. I will work hands on with developers, union leaders, and nonprofits to ensure true community engagement. A core belief of mine is that representation of the people necessitates genuine connection with the people.

Alma Banks-Brown

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED



Tyrone Willis

BACKGROUND: I love my community and I believe I can do a great job in serving my community. I have a passion and willingness to bring people together. As a senior in high school, Willis was appointed to the City of Houston Mayor's Youth Council, representing District B. This further sparked his interest in city planning and politics. While in college, Willis was Historian of Richmond's First Club and President of the National Black Law Student Association at Virginia Commonwealth University. Willis early political involvement included becoming a Fellow for Organizing for America Election Campaign for President Barack Obama (2008, 2012), in addition to being a community liaison for Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee. Willis formerly served as a member on the Barbara Jordan Endeavors Board where he helped students with disabilities, NAACP member, and a board member of Houston Association of Black Journalists. During his downtime, Willis loves to attend sporting events and playing video games.

Website: www.TyroneWillis.com

ISSUES: Crime, Illegal Dumping, & Serving Veterans. I will work with law enforcement in Harris County to ensure that the residents of District B are safe to live, work, and play. Making sure students have a safe place to play at parks and being able to access Houston Libraries. Continue to Work with the E.P.A. to make sure that our community is safe and to help continue eliminate cancer causing clusters. Making sure our Houston Port Authority is a safe place to work and do business. Continue to make sure Veterans have quality and affordable healthcare.

CONSTITUENT SERVICES: Making sure that my community knows that I work for them. Making sure that Houston District B residents know that I am here to serve them, to make sure that we have a voice, and to remain constantly engaged through face to face interaction, social media channels, phone calls, emails, and letters.

Tarsha Jackson

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

Koffey Smith El-Bey

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED



Abbie Kamin

BACKGROUND: It's been a privilege to serve our district on Council for nearly four years, including as Chair of Public Safety. I've led efforts to keep our neighborhoods safe with more police patrols and focused on reducing gun violence – now the leading cause of death among children – and domestic violence. I've funded major drainage projects in Greater Heights, Montrose, and Meyerland while tackling drainage hotspots and ditch maintenance. We've improved dangerous intersections, school crossings, and sidewalks. We've organized community outreach for water health and safety in Freedmen's Town and installed air monitors around the district. I led the creation of the city's first-ever Women's Commission, created a paid parental leave policy for city employees, and organized the first-ever Families with Pride festival. We support innovative programs like Interfaith Ministry's Senior Meals on Wheels programs, after-school programs and school SPARK parks, and civic club grants for beautification.

ISSUES: 1. Public Safety: This is my top priority. I will continue to fund common-sense measures including neighborhood patrols, technology upgrades, and policies that increase transparency and accountability. I will never stop fighting to end gun violence and domestic violence. I am excited to bring our new gun violence injury dashboard online to help in this fight. 2. Infrastructure: I remain laser-focused on flood prevention, from new projects like improving Turkey Gully in the Greater Heights area, to

long-term solutions that lessen the climate impacts from extreme weather and drought. Bringing more sidewalks to the district is always at the top of my list. 3. Neighborhoods: I will continue to work very closely with residents to protect neighborhoods from overdevelopment and improve the quality of life for our residents. We recently obtained a court order to prevent a bar near a residential area from playing loud music in violation of our noise ordinance I helped to strengthen.

CONSTITUENT SERVICES: I take constituent services very seriously and we are always working to improve. It's critical to meet residents where they are and ensure they know what is going on around them. Every constituent deserves respect and we strive to solve their issues quickly and directly. When that's not possible, we are their strongest advocate in city government, cutting through red tape wherever we can to get the job done. Council offices have a very small staff, but our District C team is responsive and eager to serve the near quarter of a million people in our district. We use innovative tracking systems to manage constituent requests and make sure no one slips through cracks. As a homeowner, an active member of my civic club and super neighborhood association, and a community volunteer for flood recovery and neighborhood beautification efforts, I've seen for myself why constituents need local government. That's why serving residents with integrity and excellence will always be a huge priority.

Website: www.AbbieKamin.com



Perata Bradley

BACKGROUND: I am thrilled to run for Houston City Council, motivated and driven by a deep understanding of the pressing needs of our vibrant and diverse communities. Being a certified nonprofit professional that is dedicated to bringing resources and expertise to underserved agencies and communities, I witnessed firsthand the lack of representation especially in City Hall who truly comprehend and care about the majority of communities especially of color across Houston. I witnessed city sponsored nonprofits being created for city employees and special interest, receive all the benefits and resources while others who applied for the same opportunities were denied. I was denied due to the abuse of authority and power in City Hall and current incumbent which made me mad enough to run for office. I'm uniquely qualified because I'm trustworthy- I stand on morals and principles of righteousness and will dismantle the criminally-minded of City Hall to make Houston the best place to live again.

ISSUES: If elected I hope to address critical issues like overdevelopment, crime and lack of affordability. Overdevelopment is putting a strain on essential services related to waste management and the outdated infrastructure that's leading to flooding. Outdated infrastructure should be prioritized and addressed first before new development. Crime is rampant in District C due to the lack of affordability in Houston. Families are struggling, individuals are work many jobs just to survive

because wages are not livable anymore. Good people are turning mad and we have to consider a livable wage inside the 610 loop. Have Businesses provided meaningful employment and training. Lastly, there is a lack of affordability due to the saturation of AirBnB's and short-term leasing across Houston and especially in District C. Short-term leasing should be regulated and the number of short-term rentals owned should be capped and regulated. Also new development should include more affordable units.

CONSTITUENT SERVICES: Constituents of District C have complained about the lack of responsiveness of our current Council member and how they feel unheard and ignored some even claim being bullied. I won't ignore my constituents nor act as if I know it all. I will listen, accept recommendations and put the best solution forward. I'm attending civic clubs and super neighborhood meetings more than expected if elected, creating a community engagement event like Movie Nights in each community I serve. I also would like a District C social media page to allow constituents to have a voice and a more intimate engagement with me as their council member as well as with other neighbors. I'm a people person borderline pleaser so my mission is to preserve the people! My office will always respond to the needs and issues of District C in a timely manner.

Website: PBfordistrictc-htx.com

Felix Javier Cisneros

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED



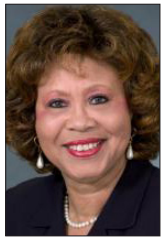
Travis McGee

BACKGROUND: I am running to give We the People of District D, a voice at City Hall. As a civic leader for over 19 years, I am doing the same things that our elected employees do. But, without the resources or platform they have.

ISSUES: If elected, the top three issues I would first focus on are crime, drainage and to ensure that we have better streets to drive on. To address the issue of crime, I would propose a community policing model that encourages all law enforcement agencies to work together with the residents in establishing storefronts within the neighborhoods reaching the common goal of attacking crime. To address the issues of poor drainage and road conditions, I would propose that all of Rebuild Houston funding and drainage fees be used for the intended purpose; to

fix the issues with drainage and road conditions. Additionally, I would tackle other issues such as infrastructure, education, and assist in creating real affordable housing options based on the demographics vs the developers idea of what affordable housing is. **CONSTITUENT SERVICES:** I would have quarterly meetings throughout District D that would include attendees and invited guests from various city departments to engage and discuss with the community important issues. I would facilitate District D tours with constituents to view the conditions of the entire district. Last but not least, I would create satellite offices within neighborhoods of the District to better accommodate the size of District D. All in all, I would practice an open door policy.

Website: travis4houston.com



Georgia D. Provost

BACKGROUND: There are many issues in District D that need solutions. I am a life-long resident and business owner for over 50 years in District D. I am a community activist who participated in the business, cultural, educational, humanitarian, political and religious/spiritual sectors of Houston's Life. I am a consummate community volunteer. A retired Houston ISD Educator and retired TSU Professor. As a Rotarian, I will take the Rotary Four Way Test of the Things we Think, Say or Do Plus 5. 1. Is it the TRUTH? 2. is it FAIR to all concerned? 3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIP? 4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned? 5. Have FUN! I have the Experience to Collaborate, the wisdom to Strategize, and the Courage to stand for what is right.

ISSUES: Economic Development/Job Creation-Infrastructure, Crime Hot Pockets/Illegal Dumping. Businesses to; locate in District D creating jobs. Install Flock Safety Security Camera in areas, crime and dumping. Install street lights in areas where there are no street lights, many street lights do not work. Use flying drones. Improve the quality of life for all residents. Solutions for the food, health and educational deserts in the District.

CONSTITUENT SERVICES: Every two months, town hall meetings, quarterly civic engagement meetings. Will give them my cell phone number and invite them to visit the campaign office.

Website: georgiaprovost.com

Debra A. Rose

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED



Lloyd Ford

BACKGROUND: Unlike past elected officials who have spoken about grand ideas without taking real action, I have been committed to bringing sustainable solutions to our community since 2017. My work began long before political aspirations, and it will continue long after. My dedication to this community and city extends beyond the realm of politics. My goal is to use the political structure as a powerful tool to help our community thrive. My vision is one where District D becomes a model of progress, prosperity, and unity. I am not running for office simply for personal gain; instead, I am running to serve and uplift our community, ensuring that every voice is heard and every need is addressed. Together, we can create a stronger, more resilient community that embraces its unique identity and works towards a brighter future for all residents.

ISSUES: Community Empowerment: Monthly Community engagement meetings, youth involvement, Strengthening

Neighborhood Groups, and Political and Social Education classes. Economic Development: Increasing Local Business Contracts, Funding Workshops, Empowering Businesses with Tax Abatements, Facilitating Access to Investors, Renewing and Stabilizing the Local Economy, and Conducting Research on Business Needs. Education: Our vision is rooted in a deep commitment to nurturing the intellectual capacity and character of the youth within our community, fostering an environment of maximum performance and community pride. To achieve this, we have outlined a comprehensive roadmap that encompasses several critical initiatives.

CONSTITUENT SERVICES: In order to engage the community and residents we plan to have a District D office inside of the district for direct involvement, monthly community meetings to be proactive on city council agenda, and giving a budget to civic club groups in order to engage residents in their area.

Website: lloydford4change.com



Carolyn Evans-Shabazz

BACKGROUND: As the incumbent, I have many “receipts” for work done to enhance the quality of life for District D constituents. I want to continue to serve the constituents of District D by helping them to attain and maintain quality of life. Provision of deserved and equitable city services is my goal. I want to continue to create and support ordinances and policies to achieve that goal and give my constituents a voice at the table. I also have a major project that I am working on to address food insecurity in District D. I consider this position to be my calling. I have the compassion and experience to make sound and thoughtful decisions. I came to Council with requisite skills having been a trustee and Board Chair at the Houston Community College and I have continued to hone those skills. My experience in passing balanced budgets is a skill that one does not acquire overnight. Much study and careful consideration goes into this vitally important process. I am intentional and focused.

ISSUES: Crime is a major issue. I have worked with law enforcement to provide money for overtime, ATVs, and sound meters to abate noise nuisance for people who live near clubs. The District is funding call boxes and working to implement a drone program to assist law enforcement and the Department of Neighborhoods. I am working with gang programs to help young people redirect their lives. More of these preventative

programs and mental health initiatives are needed. I have and will continue to provide resources and always seek new ideas to have a safer environment. Dumping is a major issue. We have a “hot team” to address dumping and trash. Our 2-step program of reporting this has been highly effective. Providing educational and job opportunities can change the trajectory of a person’s life. I have and will continue to provide opportunities in partnership with area schools and businesses. Utilizing the ION has been a tremendous opportunity to engage with the community.

CONSTITUENT SERVICES: Our monthly newsletter provides information on what has transpired but also introduces a wealth of resources and opportunities for people to engage. We send out timely eblast but also make periodic robo calls as some constituents do not have internet access. I rely on civic clubs and associations and Super Neighborhood organizations to not only keep the community abreast but to get support, suggestions and ideas to help us to function at optimum capacity. My most important resource are the constituents themselves who I consider to be our real eyes and ears. I meet with people regularly to gain knowledge of the needs of the community and to develop partnerships. I remain open, accessible and responsive in carrying out those activities which enhance the lives of others.

Website: www.carolynforhouston.com

HOUSTON CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT E



Martina Lemond Dixon

BACKGROUND: My candidacy is motivated by the enduring love I have for my community. Houstonians deserve a bold, experienced leader that is driven by passion for serving. As a representative, I will serve as a sound yet unrelenting voice, advocating tirelessly for the needs of our city. My experience in both the private and public sectors has equipped me with the necessary skills to steward meaningful change for all Houstonians. As the President of the Humble ISD Board of Trustees and Commissioner on the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, I have honed my ability to translate my constituents’ concerns into impactful policy.

ISSUES: Hurricanes and severe flooding are inescapable realities for Houston, and District E is unique in its heightened exposure to these weather events. After the devastating impact of Hurricane Harvey, it is crucial to take proactive measures to update our infrastructure and prevent such destruction from happening again. It is critical that we ensure fiscal responsibility and eliminate wasteful spending. Unchecked

spending on frivolous endeavors leaves our constituents feeling ignored when they should be our main priority. We must ensure that taxpayer dollars are utilized for initiatives that will improve the lives of Houstonians. I will advocate for extensive cost-benefit analysis of each proposed initiative. Finally, public safety, a fully funded police department is essential to the success and prosperity of Houston. Our brave men and women in blue play a pivotal role in ensuring that our families can live, work, and enjoy their time safely. They deserve our support.

CONSTITUENT SERVICES: District E is the most geographically convoluted district in Houston. Its wide span from Kingwood down to Clear Lake necessitates vigilance in constituent services. I am dedicated to forming meaningful relationships with local stakeholders and spending time in all areas of the district. These open lines of communication will be vital in ensuring that I bring my constituents’ needs to City Hall and bring about impactful change.

Website: www.voteformartina.com



**FREE
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TAKE METRO TO THE POLLS

METRO is providing free rides to the polls on October 23 to October 29 for Early Voting and on Election Day, November 7, 2023. Get information by going to www.ridemetro.org or calling 713-635-4000.

**Fred Flickinger**

BACKGROUND: Politics has always captivated my interest from watching the news to digging into issues that affect Houstonians. As I've grown older this interest has sparked a true passion. In dedicating more involvement at the grassroots level, I have serious concerns about the future of Houston and its current direction. Most significantly, the misallocation of tax resources. Rather than managing expenses appropriately, the City has focused on creative ways to generate additional revenue from its constituents. The City has plenty of revenue, it simply is not being managed properly. I will use my 35+ years of business expertise, knowledge, and leadership to focus on running our City the most efficient way possible. My private sector experience required me to both improve service and reduce costs. District E needs someone who will voice concerns and work to effect change on current and future issues. A vote for me in November will be a vote to restore common-sense leadership to our City government.

ISSUES: Returning our focus to public safety, prioritizing flooding/infrastructure and fiscal responsibility. Creating a safe environment starts with hiring additional police and firefighters, implementing more community policing programs and increasing police presence. I will partner with law enforcement to ensure resources to tackle increased crime. The City needs to be vigilant in enhancing flood mitigation. Lake Houston Dam projects are in the works and it is imperative

Website: FlickingerforHouston.com

funding remains secured to bring these projects to completion. I will be investing in innovative flood mitigation projects, and maintenance of roadways and expansions. I plan on reigning in spending by proactively scrutinizing finances from a business point of view, while simultaneously ensuring the City is as business friendly as possible. This will create a City where business thrives and additional sales and property taxes flow into the City. It's about eliminating unnecessary spending and being a good fiscal steward.

CONSTITUENT SERVICES: Communicating and interacting with the constituents of District E is essential in building relationships in the community. I plan on sending out a weekly newsletter in order to provide ongoing communication to keep people aware of city information, important events, construction updates and neighborhood activities. In addition, I plan on convening semi-annual town halls to personally engage with constituents in order to discuss key District E issues and to give constituents a channel to express their concerns as well as to get feedback. I also believe it is important to engage within the community by attending neighborhood civic meetings, spending time with local police officers and firefighters, and going to events and activities in order to know and understand the pulse of the constituents. Serving District E is about being a part of the community and always making it a priority to communicate, interact, and listen.

HOUSTON CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT G

**Enyinna O. Isiguzo**

BACKGROUND: I am running for Houston City Council District G because I firmly believe in the impact that dedicated local leadership can have on our lives. Houston deserves representatives who are committed to finding innovative ways to address these pressing issues. Over the years, I've become deeply acquainted with the concerns of our neighborhoods, and I'm determined to channel that understanding into meaningful action.

ISSUES: Job Creation; 1. I will determine the industries and sectors in the district that have potential for growth. 2. I will work towards attracting businesses and investments in these sectors by offering tax incentives, grants or other economic development programs. 3. I will collaborate with institutions to provide training and skill development programs ensuring a skilled workforce. Education and Healthcare; 1. I will join forces with school districts to enhance the quality of education by allocating funds towards facility updates hiring teachers and providing access to technology and resources. 2. I'll support legislation that guarantees healthcare for all residents, such as expanding Medicaid and introducing state sponsored health

Website: Enyinnaisiguzo.com

insurance programs. 3. I will promote measures for healthcare and initiatives encouraging a lifestyle in the community. Infrastructure I'll allocate resources towards repairing and maintaining infrastructure like roads, bridges and public transportation.

CONSTITUENT SERVICES: To ensure interactions with constituents, I will host regular town hall meetings where we can discuss important issues, answer questions, and gather feedback. Additionally, I'll maintain a social media platform, providing constituents with a reliable source of information, legislative updates, and key issues. I will send out regular email newsletters to keep constituents informed about relevant events and initiatives. Constituent surveys will be conducted periodically to understand opinions and priorities better. Furthermore, I'll actively engage in online forums and community groups, encouraging open dialogue. I will establish community advisory boards to gather insights and recommendations. Lastly, I'm committed to transparency and accountability by disclosing legislative activities, and voting records, and I'll use feedback to improve communication efforts to better serve the district.

Tony Buzbee

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED



Mary Nan Huffman

BACKGROUND: I am currently the Houston City Council Member for District G. I am also an attorney for the Houston Police Officers' Union representing HPD Officers in a variety of matters associated with their duties as officers. I respond to scenes to assist officers involved in shootings & I know how critical it is for the city's first responders to have the proper equipment they need to do such an important job. Prior to joining the union, I was a prosecutor for 10 years, quickly becoming the Chief Felony Prosecutor in the Child Exploitation Division & over the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Division. I am running for re-election because I want to make sure that public safety remains local government's number one priority. There also needs to be a renewed focus on improving storm water drainage, traffic safety, and water infrastructure. I will continue to demand transparency & accountability from other govt officials to ensure Houston comes first, not special interests.

Website: marynanhuffman.com

ISSUES: 1. Provide public safety, 2. Improve infrastructure, and 3. Reduce wasteful spending. I will continue to make sure that first responders have adequate resources. Since taking office, I have given \$350,000 of my council district servicefunds to provide overtime, technology & equipment to our first responders. I will continue to collaborate with other leaders at the local, state, and federal level to make sure we complete some of these very needed infrastructure projects. I will work with the different city departments to eliminate wasteful spending and find ways we can use money most efficiently.

CONSTITUENT SERVICES: I try to be accessible and responsive to the public. Since taking office in 2022, I have personally attended 143 homeowners' association and community meetings. I also started a monthly newsletter to keep constituents informed, and I have hosted numerous events to engage the public.

HOUSTON CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT H



Michelle Stearns

BACKGROUND: I seek to become the next City Council-member as this is within my goal setting. I have been engaged in politics for over 20 years. My agenda is to continue to work towards building and supporting better neighborhoods. I will continue to engage and be accountable to constituents. I am running to be the voice and vote to assure tax dollars are managed responsibly and we have sensible ordinances. I seek this office to move our underserved neighborhoods to be healthier and equitable communities, and no longer be overlooked. No different than other communities we should be established for all economic classes. There is a need for more affordable housing and I will work towards making this happen. To win it you must be in it, I will be a part of overseeing the direction we take our city in. Encouraging constituents to gain Understanding and actively participating is vital. As a resident of District H, I stand for a safe, secure and vibrant district for people to live, work, and play.

ISSUES: Economic development: I will advocate for measures to enhance revenue streams, such as exploring new sources

Website: michelle4houston.com

of income or updating tax policies to reflect current economic realities. I will prioritize cost-saving initiatives and conduct through audits. Safer communities and gun violence: As a council member addressing safe communities and gun violence, several approaches can be taken. First, fostering community engagement through town hall meetings, neighborhood watch programs, and partnerships with local enforcement to encourage open dialogue and collaboration. Second, supporting evidence-based programs that promote conflict resolution, youth mentorship, and violence prevention. Third, advocating for responsible gun ownership and stricter regulations to reduce the availability of firearms to potential offenders. Lastly, allocating resources to support mental health services, substance abuse treatment, and social services. Budget Review, Efficiency Measures, and Prioritization.

CONSTITUENT SERVICES: Foster community engagement through town hall meetings, neighborhood watch programs, attending Civic Club meetings and partnerships with local enforcement to encourage open dialogue and collaboration.



Sonia Rivera

BACKGROUND: I am the daughter of Mexican immigrant farm workers and began working at the age of 13 doing janitorial work to help purchase school clothes. Ten years later became a divorced single mother at 23 and went back to college, while working full time and raising a family. I spent the first 11 years of my professional career working within the nonprofit sector, managing and developing youth programs under the Health and Human Service umbrella, with high-risk youth populations providing Educational and Social Support Programs in the areas of Substance Abuse Prevention, Gang Intervention, and Youth Homelessness, prior to forming a consulting corporation and nonprofit in 2008, and 2010 respectively. I have led a life of service to others evidenced by my volunteer work with numerous community-based orgs. engaging in community reinvestment projects, forming strategic partnerships, collaborating with City of Houston Dep. and Elected Officials to increase opportunities for all communities.

ISSUES: Infrastructure: I will work with Harris County Flood Control and Commissioners Court to ensure our infrastructure projects are progressing as planned and communicate progress to our community. I will fight to increase constituent

Website: www.soniariveraforhouston.us

participation in respective neighborhood improvement projects and work with developers to integrate systems that encourage utilizing local labor and contractors. Crime: I will work with HPD and other local law enforcement to ensure we are exploring all available resources to increase public safety. I will work with communities to create family-friendly strategies and opportunities to reduce crime and increase neighbors' collaboration. I will aggressively work to support efforts to secure needed resources to increase public safety efforts. Quality of Life: Address Illegal Dumping, Roads, Air Quality, and transparency by working with community partners.

CONSTITUENT SERVICES: I will take a multi-layered approach to ensure that I maximize my communication efforts including the following: Regular Town Hall Meetings, Responsive Email and Phone Systems, Active Social Media Presence, Constituent Surveys, Constituent Liaisons, Newsletter and Updates, Community Outreach, Transparency Initiatives, Issue-Based Workshops, Online Engagement Platforms, Feedback Mechanisms, Collaboration with Local Organizations, Regular Reports to Constituents, and Constituent Case Management..



Cynthia Reyes Revilla

BACKGROUND: I am running for this position to bring change that people want to see, I want to offer the transparency that is needed in order to build trust in our city system and politics. I want people to feel and see accountability from the officials that are elected to serve. I want to uplift people's voices and give them the respect and attention they need. My efforts will be to support working class families by providing opportunities and resources to increase the quality of life. I am running to bring my expertise, knowledge, passion, and commitment to make District H better than how I received it. I have been a leader in my community for many years and have held various leadership roles via Super Neighborhood Council, MD Anderson YMCA Board, and held positions on various organizations that address a wide range of issues in the community. I am also a trusted consultant working with partners in various communities to address issues that matter to voters.

ISSUES: Public Safety: Recruit and retain quality emergency responders and staff. Ensure that our men and women who serve in all capacities of public service have the adequate equipment

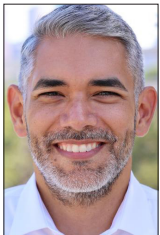
and protections they need to ensure safe working conditions. Expand emergency and health and well being services to communities in need. Infrastructure: Look for opportunities to collaborate with partners using alternative funds and grant opportunities to expand, repair and implement infrastructure. Work with communities to conduct walk and safety audits to address various community concerns. Create a process for engaging the community on infrastructure projects. Strengthen economic opportunities for communities: Design resources for workforce training for youth. Empower small businesses to utilize existing resources and grant opportunities. Foster relationships between local business and local schools to create a workforce pathway to live and work in the community.

CONSTITUENT SERVICES: I want constituents to know that my door is always open. I will be accessible and am always listening and will be involved to resolve issues and address concerns. I will be hosting satellite office locations so that community can have access to council, in person to personally discuss issues and make connections.

Website: www.CynthiaforHDH.com

Mark McGee

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED



Mario Castillo

BACKGROUND: I am running to build safer, stronger, healthier neighborhoods in District H. This is my home and my community, and I want to make it better. My grandfather immigrated here from Mexico and owned a small business in the district for 47 years. My parents still live in the same house where I grew up, behind Hollywood Cemetery. I have the most local government experience and can hit the ground running on Day One. I served as Chief of Staff to the District H City Council office. I started my career organizing communities to get health insurance and have worked at the Houston Health Department. I have helped improve infrastructure in the Hardy/Near Northside area. I have helped increase affordable housing through my service at the Houston Land Bank. I currently serve as Executive Director of Your Houston, a grassroots, nonpartisan, quality-of-life organization that helps neighbors make progress on many of the same issues that come before City Council.

ISSUES: (1) Safer Neighborhoods: Gun violence is now the leading cause of death in children. I support a balanced approach that reduces violent crime, improves police accountability, and prioritizes mental health treatment over incarceration for individuals experiencing a mental health episode. I will work with HPD to deploy special patrols equipped with mental health and social service resources, and work to establish a municipal services agreement with the Hardy / Near Northside

TIRZ to provide more funding to combat crime. (2) Stronger Neighborhoods: I will focus on infrastructure to prevent flooding, fix our streets, and add sidewalks. I firmly believe that teachers, fire fighters, restaurant managers, and the middle-class should be able to live in our district – and I will work to make housing more affordable. (3) Healthier Neighborhoods: I will fight to increase monitoring and penalties for illegal dumping, improve trash and recycling pickup, and reduce the population of stray animals.

CONSTITUENT SERVICES: High-quality constituent services will be our top priority. As a former Chief of Staff in the District H Council office, I know how local government works and how to get the job done. I have experience both inside and outside of government. In my current job leading a nonprofit organization, we train people in the community how to demand more from their local government and how to get results. Here's my plan: (1) I will be open and accessible, and out and about in the community every day. (2) We will implement systems in our council office to track constituent requests and ensure timely communication and follow-up. (3) I will hold regular community meetings and town halls in the district. Our residents should not have to travel downtown to make their voices heard. (4) We will proactively track 311 call data to keep a handle on what kinds of issues are occurring in each part of the district – and stay ahead of problems before they snowball.

Website: www.MarioForHouston.com



Rick Gonzales

BACKGROUND: As a Houston Police Officer I was assigned many task such as patrol, school truancy unit, inhalant abuse unit, tactical unit, community service officer, gang unit, graffiti abatement unit, neighborhood protection unit, homeland security @ both Houston airports. I was the Interim Police Chief @ Galena Park and was highly recommended for that appointment. As the Police Chief, I implemented enforcement in truancy and nuisance abatement. I started Officer trading cards for officers to share with the citizens of Galena Park. I implemented an Officer of the month program to encourage officers to be the best they can be. I have abated trash, garbage and debris from underneath bridges ditches and dumping grounds? I have worked during hurricanes and floods arresting looters during a time when citizens could not protect their own properties. I was instrumental in eliminating inhalant abuse in my district. I have arrested numerous murderers, sexual assault suspects, burglary and robbery suspects.

ISSUES: Crime, infrastructure & flooding. I will work closely with the police department by providing the tools necessary to

deter and enforce criminal activity. I would work with the city departments to ensure that monies will be allocated specifically to repair streets and potholes. I will work closely with the city department responsible for flooding to ensure that our drainage system are cleared of debris. I will also Investigate if our drainage fees are actually going to alleviate flooding ONLY. I will ensure that neighborhoods that are forgotten and ignored by the present and past councilman of district I, not be ignored any longer.

CONSTITUENT SERVICES: I will be transparent in the true meaning of transparency. I will inform the citizens of any city plans that will effect their neighborhoods, to allow the residents to provide their opinions and ideas. If the citizens were aware of the bicycle lanes being constructed in high vehicular traffic areas, the citizens would have protested and prevented them from being constructed. The tax paying citizens of this city unequivocally have the right to express their opinion that effect their quality of life. I will listen to the ideas & opinions of the residence of district I that effect them.



Joaquin Martinez

BACKGROUND: For the past two decades I have been working within the district, whether in a nonprofit or government capacity, more recently in the District I Office for the past 9 years. Prior to working at the city, I served my community in a nonprofit capacity, managing youth programs to support community development by building up young adults for BakerRipley. In addition, I have served the District I office for over 9 years focusing on housing, economic development, infrastructure projects, partnerships to leverage opportunities that better the quality of life for residents in District I. The district and city need strong, informed leaders to serve, and I am that individual. I know the community and the city intimately and will bring over 20 years of experience and knowledge to this office on the first day in Office.

ISSUES: My top three issues are addressing basic services, i.e., re-envisioning how city departments work for Houstonians. We have had several departments continue business as usual and our city is growing. We need to rethink how Solid Waste, the Permitting Center to name a few, run programmatically.

It is important that we audit city departments through zero-based budgeting. We also need to prioritize our infrastructure, since the city has deferred maintenance for too long. We have opportunities, whether through TIRZ or the recent Infrastructure Bill, to tackle old infrastructure and begin to build a city for tomorrow. Finally, public safety is important to attract tax base and development. We need to ensure that we can work, live, and play in the city and this must be done by prioritize the safety of communities both residential and commercial.

CONSTITUENT SERVICES: When in office, I plan to have consistent neighborhood meetings as a way to bring updates with ongoing projects and ways to stay engage with other community events. In addition, when projects are being planned for neighborhoods, I will work to have meetings leading into work being done, i.e. pre-design and pre-construction meetings. My Office will also have a monthly e-newsletter that will highlight work in District I, but also important information for all Houstonians. Finally, the Office will also use social media platforms to ensure we reach all demographics within the District.

Website: www.martinezcampaign.com

MORE QUESTIONS? GET ANSWERS

WWW.LWVHOUSTON.ORG/VOTERS-GUIDE

WWW.HARRISVOTES.COM

WWW.CHRON.COM

Call League of Women Voters Houston/KPRC Channel 2 Election Day Hotline on Election Day

November 7 from 7:00am – 7:00pm

713.778.8920 (English) 713.778.8930 (Spanish)



Edward Pollard

BACKGROUND: I am running for re-election to the District J seat to continue representing the interest of the taxpayers, and ensure their tax dollars are going towards services and projects that improve their quality of life.

ISSUES: 1) Public Safety remains my top priority. My office has created the District J Patrol in partnership with HPD that allows residents the ability to report non-emergency crimes and violations in real time to their local HPD substation through districtjpatrol.com. This enables residents to have a streamlined process to communicate with HPD to address public safety issues in a prompt and transparent fashion. My office pays HPD officers overtime pay, and paid for their specialized patrol vehicles through council district service funds. This is a modern approach to community policing and we are the only council office in the city that has this program. 2) Infrastructure

is a very important issue affecting my district and the city as a whole. We need streets and sidewalks that are drivable, safe for pedestrians and cyclists, less prone to flood and pond, as well as designed to alleviate traffic congestion. 3) More enforcement of the policies and ordinances already on the books.

CONSTITUENT SERVICES: I am proud that out of every elected city or county office, the District J office was ranked #1 for quickest response times to constituent issues. My office prides itself on providing prompt feedback with an effort to resolve issues ourselves instead of just re-directing residents to a different department to handle. We often will make personal visits to the residents' homes or site at issue, to truly understand the matter and have direct communication with the constituent. By having this approach we are able to have good interaction with those who live, work, and visit District J.

Website: www.pollardforhouston.com



Ivan Sanchez

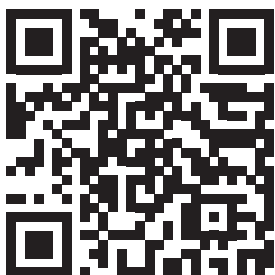
BACKGROUND: For far too long, Southwest Houston has been neglected. Ivan Sanchez is running to represent District J on Houston City Council. Together we will bring back the pride of Southwest Houston!

ISSUES: 1. 2. & 3. Crime & Sex Trafficking First and foremost, we must reduce the amount of crime occurring in Southwest Houston. No one understands this better than a person like me who came to this country fleeing violence. It is clear that our city government must combat crime and seek justice for victims. The southwest part of town contains some of the zip codes with the highest crime in the city. Houston, we have a problem: we are one of the sex trafficking capitol of the United States of America. We will advocate for driver's license suspensions for all people convicted of soliciting prostitutes in our city. Given our

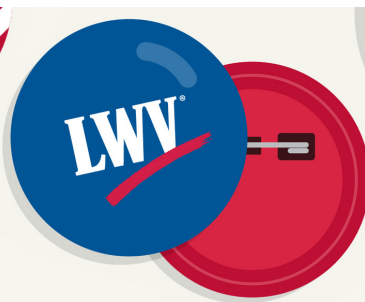
limited police resources, we must invest in effective technologies to help us increase the efficiency of our police force. By partnering with local research institutions like the University of Houston, Rice University, and others, we can evaluate the effectiveness of our interventions. We will ensure that we are not wasting resources. We must invest in our youth.

CONSTITUENT SERVICES: As a former and award-winning Congressional Case worker I deeply understand how important constituent services are. I have spent hours on the phone in the middle of the night with federal agencies trying to save families from being deported and being broken up. I will always be available for my constituents day or night I give out my personal number freely. My office likewise will be a model of constituent services.

Website: voteivansanchez.com



Election Information You Need
LWVHouston.org



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HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM TRUSTEE

THE HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE (HCC) BOARD OF TRUSTEES IS HCC'S GOVERNING BODY. DUTIES INCLUDE ESTABLISHING HCC POLICY AND APPOINTING THE CHANCELLOR. THE NINE BOARD MEMBERS ARE ELECTED FROM SINGLE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRICTS FOR STAGGERED 6-YEAR TERMS WITH NO TERM LIMITS AND SERVE WITHOUT PAY.

No Opposed Races for Houston Community College Board of Trustees. Please see page 39 for more information.

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE

THE HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT (HISD) BOARD OF EDUCATION IS HISD'S GOVERNING BODY. DUTIES INCLUDE ESTABLISHING HISD POLICY AND APPOINTING THE SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT. THE NINE BOARD MEMBERS ARE ELECTED FROM SINGLE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRICTS FOR STAGGERED 4-YEAR TERMS WITH NO TERM LIMITS AND SERVE WITHOUT PAY.

Note: As of June 1, 2023, the Texas Education Commissioner appointed a board of managers to govern HISD. The powers of the elected Board of Trustees are suspended for the period of the appointment. Trustees will, however, continue to be elected as terms expire. When local control of the District is reinstated, the powers and duties for governing HISD will be returned to the elected Board of Trustees.

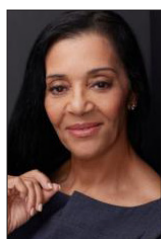
QUESTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

BACKGROUND: Why are you running for this office?

ROLE OF ELECTED TRUSTEES: How do you envision your role while HISD operations and administration are under the supervision of the Texas Education Association rather than an elected Board of Trustees?

HOUSTON ISD TRUSTEE, POSITION 3

HOUSTON ISD TRUSTEE, POSITION 3



Fe Bencosme

BACKGROUND: To ensure an exemplary public education system for the general diffusion of knowledge in an environment that fosters excellence, promotes respect for the individual, maintains transparency between parents and teachers, provides for the emotional and spiritual well-being of students and teachers, and while committed to stewarding public funds honestly and efficiently with the end goal of improving student outcomes.

Website: vote4fe.com

ROLE OF ELECTED TRUSTEES: While my role will be temporarily limited to an advisory position until the Texas Education Agency restores oversight to the elected board of trustees, I intend to be fully engaged in the governance of HISD.

Dani Hernandez

NO RESPONSE RECEIVED

HOUSTON ISD TRUSTEE, POSITION 4

HOUSTON ISD TRUSTEE, POSITION 4



Meg Seff

BACKGROUND: I have 30 years experience teaching 100's of children. I believe in academic excellence for all kids. I have five granddaughters ranging in ages from 7-10. I want to share my experience and background in education. Houston is going through educational turmoil and I believe I can help create an educational system we all can be proud of. I have extensive experience in teaching low income and At-Risk students, Education Law and Special Education Law. It is time

Website: MegSeff.com

to have School Board Trustees who have been educators making education decisions.

ROLE OF ELECTED TRUSTEES: In the first two years, I will be in an advisory position which is important because most of the Board of Managers are not educators. The third and fourth year, if not sooner, I will be making academic, financial and administrative decisions. I am highly qualified in all aspects of the is model.



Patricia K. Allen

BACKGROUND: Students deserve representation that is knowledgeable and qualified. As a career educator my vision has always been focused on providing the best for children. I am HISD. I attended and graduated from HISD schools, then received my Bachelor, Master, and Doctor degrees from the University of Houston. Upon graduation I worked in HISD for 35 years until retirement. I have lived and worked in this area all my life. I am the best person to represent the students of District 4.

Website: patriciaallen4hisd.com

ROLE OF ELECTED TRUSTEES: As an elected Board of Trustee member, I act in advisory role to the Board of Managers communicating the vision and values of District 4. I am still the elected official for District 4, so I continue to communicate with the members about information received from the new administration.

RUNNING UNOPPOSED

Senate Bill 1 (87th Leg., 2nd C.S., 2021) amended Sections 2.053 and 2.056 of the Texas Election Code to require that unopposed candidates be declared elected for the office sought, if otherwise authorized. Therefore, unopposed candidates will not appear on your ballot.

For your information we have listed the unopposed candidates for this election and the office that they will hold.

HOUSTON CITY COUNCIL

HOUSTON CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT A

Amy Peck | NON-PARTISAN

HOUSTON CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT F

Tiffany D. Thomas | NON-PARTISAN

HOUSTON CITY COUNCIL, DISTRICT K

Martha Castex-Tatum | NON-PARTISAN

HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM TRUSTEE

HCC SYSTEM TRUSTEE, DISTRICT IV

Laolu Davies-Yemitan | NON-PARTISAN

HCC SYSTEM TRUSTEE, DISTRICT V

Sean Cheben | NON-PARTISAN

HCC SYSTEM TRUSTEE, DISTRICT IX

Pretta VanDible Stallworth | NON-PARTISAN

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE

HOUSTON ISD TRUSTEE, POSITION 2

H.A. "Savant" Moore | NON-PARTISAN

HOUSTON ISD TRUSTEE, POSITION 9

Placido Gomez | NON-PARTISAN

UNOPPOSED, HOUSTON CITY COUNCIL

UNOPPOSED, HCC SYSTEM TRUSTEE

UNOPPOSED, HISD DISTRICT TRUSTEE

About the League of Women Voters and This Voters Guide

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization. The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. For over 100 years, the League's mission has been to support active and informed citizen participation in government. The League believes that voting is a vital part of Making Democracy Work.

The League of Women Voters of Houston publishes the Voters Guide to help each voter cast an informed vote. This Voters Guide contains information about the voting process, the duties and responsibilities of the offices that are included in this election and candidates who will appear on the ballot in Harris County.

No portion of this Voters Guide may be reproduced for use in political campaigns or advertising. Other proposed uses are permitted only with advance written authorization of the League of Women Voters of Houston.



The League of Women Voters of Houston wishes to thank the Houston Chronicle for its partnership in providing this print edition of the Voters Guide to Harris County voters. For more election information and news please visit www.chron.com.

How the League of Women Voters Assembles the Voters Guide

The League of Women Voters of Houston contacts all candidates in contested races for the following offices: City of Houston Mayor, Controller, City Council At-Large and District, Houston Community College Trustees, Houston Independent School District Trustees. These candidates are asked to respond to our candidate questionnaire with biographical information and answers to questions about important issues.

Each candidate's response is reproduced exactly as submitted without editing or verification. Each candidate is personally and solely responsible for the content of his/her response.

Candidates are advised that their responses are character limited. Candidates who fail to respond to our invitation to participate in the Voters Guide are listed with the notation, "No response received." Candidates without a photo did not submit one.

Candidates are advised that the League of Women Voters reserves the right not to print obscenities, slurs, or egregious personal attacks.

Information about Statewide Constitutional Amendments is provided by the League of Women Voters of Texas.

The information contained in this Voters Guide may be accessed in Chinese, Spanish, or Vietnamese by going to www.LWVHouston.org and selecting Houston Voters Guide.



4 SIMPLE STEPS TO VIEW YOUR SPECIFIC BALLOT ONLINE

1. Go to www.harrisvotes.com.
2. Click on Sample Ballot.
3. Enter your name, your address or your Voter Registration Certificate Number.
4. Make sure your personal information is correct, then click on "Sample Ballot" to view your ballot just as it will look when you go to vote.