

BI-MONTHLY Continental Breakfast

SEPT 10 @ 7:30 AM

Houston Baptist University
Morris Cultural Arts Center

CANDIDATES



Submission & BIOs

hot-topics include: _____

public safety



infrastructure



growth



community



revenue cap



UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 1 @ 730am
METRO

Nov 12 @ 730am

guest speaker **Starla Turnbo**

Houston Apartment Association President

ORGANIZERS INCLUDE:

- SNC #31 Greater Meyerland
- SNC #36 Brays Oaks
- SNC #37 Westbury
- SNC #38 Near Southwest
- SNC #39 & #40/SHCCC
- SNC #41 Fort Bend Houston

Event organizers do NOT endorse any candidate for public office. Candidates answers are presented as submitted with the exception of contact information corrections. Event organizers wish to thank the candidates who participated in the survey.

CANDIDATES

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footnotes

¹ By 2030, the population of Houston is expected to grow from 2.2 to 2.8 million people, an increase of 600,000 people.

² Management Districts (MDs)
Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones (TIRZs)

³ Community advocates such as: Super Neighborhood Councils, civic organizations, homeowner associations, etc.

⁴ Houston has a restriction on property taxes (“revenue cap”).

Sallie Alcorn - AtLarge 5

salliealcorn.com

281-939-7444

sallie@salliealcorn.com

P.O. Box 27510, Houston, TX 77227

Education and Experience?

Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance from UT - Austin. Master of Arts in Public Administration from UH.

I've spent over 15 years working learning the workings of city government - in the city's housing and community development department, as a district director for a Houston-based congressman, as agenda director to a district council member, as chief of staff to both a district and at-large council member, and as an aide to the city's flood czar. I've worked on a broad range of issues including city finances, infrastructure, transportation, housing, and economic development. For five years I worked alongside the chair of the city's budget and fiscal affairs committee and became an expert in navigating the city's \$5 billion budget. I helped develop the city's comprehensive financial policies and orchestrated five years of budget hearings. I was heavily involved in initial Harvey recovery efforts and obtained grant funding to advance green storm water infrastructure initiatives. I assembled and managed a task force to tackle redevelopment and flooding policies, worked with council members to identify neighborhood drainage projects, and led the charge to bring Houston's Adopt-A-Drain Program to life. I worked to alleviate food deserts, led park clean ups, established an annual senior falls prevention event, and advocated for city policy to allow ride sharing companies like Uber and Lyft to operate in Houston. In my work at the housing department, I successfully resolved compliance issues with HUD so affordable housing funds were restored to the city. Most importantly, I've helped countless residents resolve city-related issues by providing responsive constituent service.

Community Involvement?

Bridges to Life restorative justice prison program volunteer
San Jose Clinic advisory board member
Holocaust Museum Houston former board member and past fundraising luncheon event chair
Houston READ Commission former board member and past fundraising gala chair
Women's Fund past fundraising luncheon chair
Children's Museum past fundraising gala chair
Contemporary Arts Museum past family day chair
St. John's School, Lamar High School parent volunteer
St. Michael Catholic Church past women's guild president

Why are you running for office?

Houston is the best city with the best people I know. I'm proud to call Houston home and am eager to serve this city I love. Here is why I'm running for City Council:

I'm running because it's a pivotal time for our city, and there are some big things we really need to get right if we want Houston to thrive and be a successful, competitive, world-class city of the future. First, with Harvey still unshakably on our minds, we must invest in transformative drainage improvements and flood mitigation strategies to protect against the next storm. Second, we must do a better job with transportation: more options,

less congestion, and well-maintained, safer streets. Third, we need city policies and practices to attract the next generation of Houstonians—less sprawl and more vibrant, pedestrian-friendly activity centers with access to housing, jobs, transportation, services, parks, retail and recreation. Houston must be a modern city that innovates and evolves.

I'm running to make sure city government delivers basic services in the smartest way possible. Reliable, effective public safety. Good infrastructure. Clean water. Trash picked up on time. Quality libraries and plentiful parks. A faster permitting process. In providing these services, we need more government flexibility, transparency, and responsiveness. The city needs to live within its means, spend money wisely, and plan for the future. We all need a city government we can trust and be proud of.

I'm running because I know this job, I can navigate the city, and I love this work. For the past ten years working for three council members and the city's flood czar, I have learned the nuts and bolts of how the city runs—what works, what doesn't work, how local government can help, and when it should stay out of the way. Mostly, I've learned Houstonians are the most hard-working, optimistic, big-thinking, friendly, and generous people around. As written above the entrance to the City Council Chamber, "The People are the City," and it would be my greatest honor to continue working with the citizens of Houston to shape a brighter future for our city.

Houston has challenges with crime & delivery of public safety services. How would you address these needs?

Keeping Houstonians safe must be the number one priority of government. Houston's 5100 police officers and 4000 firefighters are second-to-none. It's the responsibility of local leaders to make sure our police and fire departments have the people and equipment they need to protect our lives and property from danger. As your council member I will work to:

- Hire additional police officers. A 2014 study determined over 1000 additional police officers are needed to: field two-officer responses to dangerous calls for service; reduce overall response times; adequately enforce traffic laws; investigate criminal cases in a timely manner; and successfully clear workable crime cases.
- Promote community and relational policing which has proven effective in lowering crime. Police and citizens build trust when they are in regular communication. This trust leads to collaboration and changes negative behavioral patterns. If officers are regularly seen in a neighborhood and people get to know and trust them, they are more likely to work together to provide information and reduce crime.
- Support the city's strategic plan to fight human trafficking. Houston is a hub for trafficking activity, and the city must continue its coordinated response to raise public awareness, provide services to victims, and identify and crack down on buyers and those who perpetuate these human rights violations.

Sallie Alcorn - AtLarge 5 ...*continued*

- Properly equip police officers and firefighters. The city needs to replace outdated personal protective equipment, patrol cars, fire trucks, and ambulances. The city should establish a replacement fund for public safety needs and dedicate funds to it each year.
- Adjust the deployment model of HFD to better reflect the fact that over 85% of all calls for service are for emergency medical services.
- Make sure firefighters are provided with the training and professional development they need to excel and support initiatives to protect firefighters from cancer.

What do you propose to reduce CITY flooding? Funding?

Houstonians shouldn't have to panic at every heavy rain. Three devastating floods in three years, including Harvey, the most destructive flood in Houston's history, have made an unshakable, indelible impression on the city's collective mindset. True leadership on City Council is needed to get this right; it's time to make sure smart, creative, and big-thinking investments are made to protect our families, neighborhoods, and businesses from floods. As your council member, I will work to:

- Invest in transformative drainage projects to protect the maximum number of citizens from repeated flooding. With significant federal post-Harvey funding, county flood control bond funds, and local capital improvement dollars, Houston is poised as never before to shape a more flood-resilient future. We need to make sure the city, state, county and federal governments all work closely together to get projects done quickly, on budget, and in a way that gives the help to the people and neighborhoods most in need. City funding for these projects will be from ReBuild Houston (now Build Houston Forward), annual FEMA grants – Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and Flood Mitigation Assistance, and Harvey recovery funding – FEMA and HUD mitigation funds.
- Improve the effectiveness and transparency of the city's Build Houston Forward program. Build Houston Forward's four sources of funding: ad valorem taxes; drainage utility fees; third-party funds (including Metro mobility); and developer impact fees have paid for more than \$1 billion worth of drainage and mobility projects and activities while paying off \$1.1 billion in city debt for projects already done. However, lack of implementation transparency from the start has overshadowed the program's successes. The city must do a better job prioritizing drainage and street projects and showing taxpayers where their money is going.
- Expand the city's successful Storm Water Action Team (SWAT) Program, because residents know their neighborhood better than bureaucrats. The SWAT program relies on suggestions from citizens to target smaller-scale neighborhood drainage fixes such as replacing storm sewer and outfall pipes and regrading ditches. SWAT is responsible for hundreds of needed drainage projects throughout the city—projects prioritized at the grassroots level by residents who know the problems in their neighborhoods and can best help the city find trouble spots.

- Promote common-sense "green" drainage solutions like rain gardens, green roofs, permeable pavement, bioswales, rain barrels, and planter boxes. Houston lags way behind other major cities in adopting proven green infrastructure practices to reduce storm water runoff and manage flood risk. Where it makes good economic sense, we need to lead by example by incorporating more green infrastructure practices on city road and drainage projects and at city buildings. The city also should offer incentives to private developers and homeowners who promote environmental quality and contribute to flood protection with green solutions.

- Incorporate detention and flood mitigation into city parks and green space. With limited land available for these purposes, the city should take full advantage of existing open spaces to double as areas for both recreation and flood mitigation and management. The city should partner with Harris County, nonprofits, and the philanthropic community to build on the successes of dual-purpose projects like Buffalo Bayou Park.

- Ensure that developer regulations encourage responsible development that does not negatively impact surrounding communities.

- Be a watchdog over the billions of dollars flowing to the city for Hurricane Harvey recovery, and hold city departments accountable to make sure funds go to the people and projects most in need.

- Advocate for the study and execution of all viable projects to mitigate future flooding including flood tunnels, coastal surge protection, dam improvements, and a third reservoir.

How do you propose to accommodate population growth¹, attract high-paying jobs, and encourage new residents to live in Houston city limits?

What is most concerning about this increase in population has to do with increased traffic. Traffic consistently ranks as a top concern of Houstonians. There's nothing more frustrating than congested roads, traffic jams, and longer-than-expected commutes. A recently-released Texas A&M Transportation Institute study shows Houstonians spend 75 hours a year in traffic spending \$1376 and 31 gallons of gas. City leaders must reframe the mobility discussion; no longer is it an issue of how to cram more cars on more lanes on more roads. We can't think that narrowly; we must think about how to move people, not just cars. We also must address the poor condition of many of our streets and focus on the fact that Houston roads are the most dangerous and deadly in the country. As your council member, I will work to:

- Improve the flow of traffic on city streets. This means smarter signal timing, dedicated lanes for buses, and well-maintained roadways. It's hard to move traffic smoothly down the street when there are potholes, sinkholes, and crumbling asphalt.

- Invest in road improvements and hold city contractors accountable for delivering quality road construction projects on time and on budget.

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Sallie Alcorn - AtLarge 5 ...*continued*

- Engage with city and county leaders in the region, Metro, and TxDOT to advance a multimodal “more than just cars” approach. Houston needs everything to help relieve stress on streets and freeways—cars, buses, bus rapid transit, light rail, commuter rail, pedestrian, bicycle, ride share, autonomous vehicles, and whatever else new technology brings. We need more attractive, convenient, and faster connections between major activity centers—get people where they need to go quicker and with less hassle.

- Make sure frequent and reliable transit is available to residents who need it most. Many Houstonians rely on public transportation as their only option to get to work, school, daycare, the doctor, or the grocery store. Transportation policy decisions must address existing inequities in under-resourced areas.

- Prioritize street safety and adopt a Vision Zero action plan. Houston is ranked #1 for the most dangerous roads in the nation and in the top five for speeding, number of pedestrians and bicyclists hit, and DWIs. Vision Zero is a global initiative aimed at eliminating traffic fatalities and injuries. Efforts must include public education, designing streets for safety, and better enforcing traffic laws.

- Embrace emerging, innovative technology that uses smart city devices to predict traffic, improve signal timing, and ensure timely deployment of needed resources like ambulances and police vehicles.

Houston needs to keep its economy strong by attracting new businesses and jobs to the city and by supporting and growing existing businesses. A trained, skilled workforce completes the picture of a healthy economy, so it’s in Houston’s best interest to make sure all Houstonians have access to the resources and public services they need to climb the economic ladder. Houston flourishes when it supports economic mobility for all. As your council member, I will work to:

- Foster a business climate where companies can grow and thrive. This includes offering economic incentives, providing top-notch customer service, and speeding up the permitting process.

- Provide incentives to grocers to alleviate food deserts, areas without access to fresh foods. Incentives must include requirements for grocers to hire from the local community.

- To remain competitive and bolster the tax base, it’s important the city streamlines permitting processes. City permitting staff should apply rules consistently and help businesses find solutions to keep their projects moving.

- Support efforts to leverage Houston’s universities, economic strength, and engineering talent to attract more technology-based companies to Houston.

- Partner with local universities, community colleges, nonprofits, and employers to develop Houston’s workforce and provide the job training needed to get good jobs with opportunity for advancement.

- Expand current workforce development programs to more library locations.

- Advance policies and practices aimed at giving all communities access to critical amenities associated with economic opportunity. These include quality affordable homes, education, good public transportation and infrastructure, safe streets and sidewalks, parks, cultural activities, and fresh groceries.

Attention to quality of life issues is also very important in attracting and keeping people living within Houston’s city limits. In today’s global and knowledge-based economy, people have greater choice in where they want to live. More and more people, from millennials to baby boomers, are choosing city life—they want attractive, inviting, places that foster a greater sense of community, places where it’s easy to walk places and see your neighbors on the way. “Walkability” doesn’t just add convenience; it expands economic opportunity and helps citizens save time and money. Houston needs more vibrant, pedestrian-friendly centers of activity with access to housing, jobs, education, parks, services, retail, and recreation. As your council member, I will work to:

- Adjust development rules and parking regulations to allow for the creation of more walkable spaces. Houston’s setback and parking requirements are geared more toward sprawling, suburban development. The city should make changes to encourage development of more pedestrian-friendly areas.

- Support the work of the city’s Walkable Places Committee which is creating an application-based process to designate walkable areas with attractive pedestrian realms along existing transit corridors. The city, with input from affected neighborhoods, should adopt policies to attract development around high-use public transit lines, so a walk to the bus or rail is an enjoyable experience. Ideally, neighborhoods should connect to transportation via safe and accessible streets and sidewalks with a healthy balance of shops, jobs, schools, restaurants, and services along the way.

- Create a sidewalk master plan. The city’s existing sidewalk programs don’t cut it; with an average annual budget of \$2.5 million and a backlog of \$83 million in needed projects, it isn’t effective. The plan should assess the current condition of our sidewalks and explore potential sources to fund improvements.

- Protect pedestrians. Motorists and pedestrians share the road, and designing roads to keep everyone safe is critically important. Fixes don’t have to be expensive; sometimes simple, bright markings at intersections can do the trick. Buffers to separate pedestrians and moving cars, like on-street parking or landscaping, are also key.

- Continue to invest in Houston parks and the keep the momentum of Houston’s “green renaissance” going. Build on the success of Bayou Greenways 2020 by adding and improving neighborhood parks and promoting interconnectivity between parks, neighborhoods, and hike and bike trails.

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- Plant more trees. In Houston weather, a shady walk is often the only way to go. The cooling impact of trees, not to mention their ability to absorb stormwater, make trees an essential ingredient to walkable areas. Working with private and nonprofit partners, the city should prioritize tree planting and maintenance to create healthy and attractive places to walk.

- Support the Houston Bike Plan and expand the successful Houston Bike Share program. Making Houston a more bikeable city promotes better health, lessens congestion, and improves quality of life. Further, bike-friendly cities, like walkable cities, attract new residents and businesses.

What do you think the role should be for MDs /TIRZs² and how would you work with community advocates ³?

Management districts and TIRZs play an important role in providing needed improvements to areas throughout Houston. Drainage and road improvements, investments in parks and green space, sidewalks, bikeways, and safer intersections, park maintenance and improvements, public safety enhancements, beautification efforts—all of these benefits and more are made possible through funding by management districts and TIRZs. It is essential all activities of management districts and TIRZs are completely transparent. Meetings should be widely advertised and held at times convenient for affected residents to attend, budgets and project plans should be carefully scrutinized by city council, and there should be ample opportunity for community input into project plans. The best management districts and TIRZs work closely with residents of their surrounding communities.

As a council member, I will actively participate in community organizations including super neighborhood councils, civic clubs, and homeowner associations as I have been doing for the past ten years as a city council staffer and most recently as a candidate. I see this as key to the role of an elected official. Interacting with community organizations is the best way to get information from the neighborhoods—information about what is needed from city government to make the quality of life for residents better. Community organizations also provide the best means to get information to the neighborhoods—information about city ordinances/policies/practices which could potentially impact residents. These groups are the lifeblood of city engagement and I hope to play a role in keeping the active groups engaged and getting the less active groups more involved.

Do you support keeping, modifying or eliminating the cap⁴?

For years Texas homeowners have been frustrated by rising property taxes. This is why property tax relief was a priority of the last state legislative session. The city of Houston's voter-imposed property tax revenue cap is actually more stringent than the one just passed at the legislature, and the city will continue to operate under its own stricter cap. Last year, it's estimated the average Houston homeowner saved \$115 due to the city's property tax revenue cap. Without the cap, the city would have collected \$152 million in additional revenue.

The city's property tax rate is five cents lower than it was in 2013 and its lowest since 1987. Property owners, however, certainly haven't felt like they have paid lower taxes since valuations have risen and other taxing entities like HISD have continuously raised rates. The city's rate is .58 cents per \$100 valuation while HISD's is \$1.20.

Overall, property owners have been paying higher and higher tax bills, and I don't believe there is currently an appetite for passing a measure to lift the cap. Voters would have to be convinced of the absolute need to raise the cap, and they would need to see the city operating at top efficiency. Because of a rule in the city charter, the earliest a measure could be brought before Houston voters is 2021. During the course of the next 2.5 years, it's imperative the city implement cost-saving measures and shore up its finances. The city will need to gain the public's trust by spending wisely and living within its means. At that point, I would be in favor of asking voters to decide whether to lift the cap for a specific, limited amount for a specific purpose such as public safety and/or infrastructure. I do have concerns that additional revenues will be needed in the future to ensure effective delivery of core city services, but ultimately, this will be up to the voters.

— END OF SUBMISSION —

Bill Baldwin- AtLarge 4
baldwinforhouston.com
info@baldwinforhouston.com
713.554.2021
FB @baldwinforhouston.com

Education and Experience?

Sam Houston State University, Bachelors in Business Administration in 1985; Licensed Texas Real Estate Broker, Broker/Owner of Boulevard Realty since 2008

Community Involvement?

Houston Heights Association
Former President & Board Member
Recognitions: Citizen of the Year

He is one of the longest serving board members in the history of the Houston Heights Association, a volunteer-led non-profit that serves as a powerful mechanism for the 8,000 households of his neighborhood to improve their corner of the city and have their voices heard, and it has created a pocket of Houston that is renowned for its exceptional quality of life.

Houston Relief Hub
Founder and Lead Volunteer
Recognition: Houston Relief Hub Day

Bill was one of the very first volunteers to arrive at George R. Brown Convention Center on the day after Harvey's touchdown in Houston. He sprung into action there and, seeing the needs of the shelter met decided to bridge the gap between Houstonians who wanted to help and those who were at risk of falling through the cracks by forming the Harvey Relief Hub, which later became the Houston Relief Hub. The premise was to connect those affected by Harvey with resources and donations with those who wanted to help in any way. The operation was so successful, that "the Hub" became the official City of Houston delegation to relief efforts in Puerto Rico after Maria, California through the 2017-2018 wildfires, and many other disasters. The hub was reactivated most recently to assist those affected by the 2018-2019 Federal Government Shutdown and Barry in Louisiana.

Cohen Plaza Expansion & Beautification, 2017: Project manager for a public-private partnership to expand and beautify the Cohen Plaza, a highly visible public green space in the Heights Boulevard esplanade, at no expense to Houston taxpayers.

Friends of the Yale Street Bridge Bricks, 2016: Project manager for a public-private partnership to salvage and repurpose historic buffalo brick from the Yale Street Bridge.

Friends of the Fountain, 2016: Co-chair of an effort to crowdfund and coordinate the restoration of the Mecom Fountain, a historic landmark in Hermann Park. Responsibilities included fundraising and overseeing a historically appropriate restoration.

Why are you running for office?

I am proud to say that I have been actively serving as a near full-time volunteer for the City of Houston for the past few years. Further, I am confident in saying that I have been more involved and effective at the City-level as a volunteer than any other candidate over the last three years.

I was a Planning Commissioner from January 2016 until this month when I announced my candidacy. In addition, I chaired the Planning Commission's Walkable Places Sub-Committee. I have been noted as one of the most outspoken members of the Planning Commission, speaking on behalf of Houston's neighborhoods and ensuring that the concerns of residents were taken seriously, while treating property owners and developers fairly and encouraging their investments. The policy recommendations of the Walkable Places Committee under my leadership for more urban and transit-oriented development will continue to move through City Hall, but one of our greatest victories was the adoption of market-based parking in Midtown and EaDo last month.

In addition to these posts, I have been a Special Advisor to the Mayor on Permitting, working closely with the department on a daily basis to help streamline operations and problem-solve in order to better serve Houstonians and businesses. I am an appointee to the Mayor's North Houston Highway Improvement Project Steering Committee, a select group charged with leveraging work on I-45 into game-changing infrastructural upgrades throughout the city. Finally, I also served as Co-Chair with Nancy Kinder of the Quality of Life Committee for Mayor Turner's 2016 Transition, where we made key policy recommendations in the areas of neighborhoods, arts & culture, parks & greenspace, and partnerships & city promotion.

Throughout all of these volunteer leadership endeavors, I was not only highly engaged, I sought to push the status quo in a bold yet realistic manner, and I believe that balance can exist. All of these roles expanded on my already deep knowledge base on all things in the City's purview. This, coupled with my experience as a successful business owner and operator in the private sector, has indeed allowed me to make connections and effect a fair amount of change.

However, I believe I have made about as much of an impact as I can as a volunteer. I have observed and learned what I need to from the outside. Now I feel I must be a part of the policy- and budget-making process in order to really move the needle for today and for tomorrow.

I will admit that I am often frustrated with the ability of the City to advance, adopt, and amend certain policies. I think we are lacking a certain amount of collaboration at the Council-level and education among the city electorate. I have demonstrated an exceptional ability to collaborate and educate both as a volunteer and in the private sector, and I feel those skills are now desperately needed at City Hall. So, my campaign will be one of education, I want to see Houstonians head to the polls this Fall with more information and transparency on the real issues facing us than ever before, including my intent and preparedness to solve them.

As a Council Member, I would put all of these unique qualifications to work for the City.

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Houston has challenges with crime & delivery of public safety services. How would you address these needs?

Through the Revenue Cap and the blow to our General Fund that firefighter pay parity would create if we don't finalize negotiations and avoid further litigation, we are hamstringing our ability to hire and retain first-rate police officers, firefighters, and municipal employees without revisiting this aspect of our City charter. We can't be a first-rate large city and remain safe if we continually fall in the middle, at best, of police officers per capita or in the eyes of credit rating agencies. These aspects of municipal finance are crucial to delivery basic public safety services.

I think there is both a political impact and a financial impact to the question of pay parity that came to a head with Proposition B and that remains since Judge Tanya Garrison's ruling on its constitutionality. To me, there is no question that the implementation of pay parity would have been a very heavy financial burden, and I did not support the measure. Considering the need to strive for a fiscally responsible, balanced budget and our revenue cap, it would have meant cuts to other public safety funding and any number of city services and departments. Further, I believe that trying to determine pay parity between two very different jobs was always going to be a complicated issue.

I do believe firefighters are underpaid and deserve a raise, but Proposition B was not the best way to go about obtaining that pay increase. Such a sudden and large hit to the general fund is not responsible and constituted something of a self-imposed economic disaster, when we are a city that faces often faces real natural and economic disaster that is outside of our control.

As an appeal continues to make its way through Texas courts, I believe that mediation and negotiation are the better option over costly litigation and ongoing uncertainty. As a Council Member, I would be proud to participate in a budgeting process where firefighters feel they are getting adequate compensation in years to come.

What do you propose to reduce CITY flooding? Funding?

I am very familiar with the engineering recommendations that were made to the City from its Redevelopment and Drainage Task Force with regards to detention, fill, and drainage encroachment in the City right-of-way, and I believe they are a step in the right direction. However, I believe our city still lacks a clear, comprehensive drainage and infrastructure plan in collaboration with surrounding jurisdictions to keep us on firm ground considering we are a flood-prone region, not just a flood-prone city. Because roads serve the dual purpose of being both transportation and drainage infrastructure, a comprehensive plan should be put forth for our roads as well and we should think long-term about the role of the State and Federal government for funding studies and planning, but act quickly, creatively, and steadfastly at the City level.

I am also very familiar with all iterations of the now Build Houston Forward program. Financially, it makes sense to move the city from debt-based financing to a pay-as you-go system with a dedicated fund for drainage and street construction projects. I understand the first few years have us largely paying down interest and debt, and it seems we are well on our way to paying off the remaining approximately \$1.2B.

All in all, I am supportive of the program, especially following the additional measure of transparency and clarifying language allowed by the recent Proposition A ballot measure. I think the City does a fair job of reporting and tracking the projects and improvements tied to Build Houston Forward. One of the many hats I wear is residential builder and remodeler, and I can say that the drainage fee calculation is among the more transparent fee assessments that the City has. I would encourage the City to revisit this fee often.

As with many other areas of the City's delivery of services, I think more education could be done to residents about the importance of reporting issues to 311 so that Build Houston Forward is tackling projects about which the widest number of Houstonians are concerned.

I also think the program should be looked at with the recommendations of the Redevelopment and Drainage Task Force to ensure that drainage and development projects, impact fees, detention credits, fees in lieu of detention, and regional drainage are all viewed holistically and as a comprehensive drainage strategy for the City, then communicated clearly to residents, businesses, and developers. As a Council Member, I would push for such strategies to be pursued and enacted soon.

How do you propose to accommodate population growth¹, attract high-paying jobs, and encourage new residents to live in Houston city limits?

Simply put, we have inadequate capacity for growth. There is no doubt that Greater Houston will add to its population by millions over the next few decades. The question is how many of those new arrivals will want to reside in the City of Houston proper, and our capacity is to house, transport, and keep them out of harm's way. We cannot make it more attractive by comparison for businesses and residents to want to set up outside City limits, or our city will begin to suffer major economic consequences. At the City level, I believe this is a function of the Planning & Development department. We must take a comprehensive and bold look at Chapter 42, other restrictions or disincentives to urban density, and off-street parking requirements in the inner city. This, along with infrastructure improvements and the regional transportation planning done by METRO, HGAC, and our TXDOT district, is all vital work that must be done now in order to ensure we have a strong city in the future. It will take immense collaboration and forward thinking.

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As a Council Member, I would also encourage METRO to focus on making the overall experience more comfortable by covering every bus stop with a shelter and adding solar-powered fans. I don't think they have to go it alone in this regard, this area is prime for public-private partnerships. I believe system enhancements should be a priority, including consolidating ticketing, trip planning, and tracking arrival times into one app (versus the current three), and continuing to use all available data to improve frequency and reduce delays. This will increase ridership, which is revenue-generating, because more Houstonians will take the bus or utilize carpool options because they want to, not because they have to. We can't add millions of cars along with millions of people.

Finally, I believe all park-and-rides, both proposed and existing, should be designed thoughtfully to be more than parking lots and bus stops. They represent prime opportunities for retail, affordable housing, and other outside-of-the-box pilots on what is ultimately valuable City-owned land. As a Council Member, this is the sort of forward thinking I would bring.

What do you think the role should be for MDs /TIRZs² and how would you work with community advocates³?

When is the last time you were notified of your local TIRZ or Management District meeting? Do you know who is on the board? Do you know how many tax dollars they are directing in your area and how they intend to spend them? If they meet on a weekday midday, would you even be able to attend to hear?

I find that the answer to all of these questions tends to be "no" for most Houstonians. However, these entities, known as local government corporations, make big decisions and recommendations to the City affecting our neighborhoods.

There is nothing inherently wrong with these bodies, but they do lack a fair amount of accountability and transparency. Let's fix that.

City money and power belongs to the people. Yet there are many local government corporations like Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones, Management Districts, and Redevelopment Authorities that aren't easily accessible to the public, even though they make decisions that directly affect us. They often meet during hours when most of us are working, and not all make their agendas and decisions readily known to the public. The same goes for committees, boards, and commissions at the City. We must reform this. They need to meet when the public can be there, and they need to make a better effort to gather community input and communicate their decisions.

The City can and should work with these LGCs to increase transparency and ensure proper communication with the mechanisms residents are already using: superneighborhood meetings, civic association meetings, Nextdoor and other social media.

Do you support keeping, modifying or eliminating the cap⁴?

As mentioned above, the City's self-imposed revenue cap is worth revisiting soon and often. I believe we should start planning for an election to increase it within the next four years. City costs are not fixed, some rise and fall every year, yet the City has a fixed amount of revenue to try and stretch further and further. Trying to do more with less ultimately means we will not advance as a city.

This was all complicated by the 2019 Texas Property Tax Reform and Transparency Act. However, again, it would be ludicrous to expect voters to lift the revenue cap without laying out a comprehensive plan for increasing and improving City services in areas that matter to them.

I think that the path forward at this point is in voter education and a concentrated push to ensure there is a mechanism for Houstonians to feel like they are getting what they pay for, then exceeding their expectations. We have to think outside the box. As a Council Member, I would push my colleagues who represent individual districts, my fellow At-Large members, and the City departments who report to the Mayor to all ensure we are excelling at the nuts and bolts of City services within our means while developing a firm, data-driven plan to take it up a notch before we ask voters to increase the revenue cap.

— END OF SUBMISSION —

Jamaal Boone - AtLarge 5
jamaalboone@gmail.com

Education and Experience?

Paul Quinn College/Secondary Education

Community Involvement?

Ten years as an educator, published children’s book author, community outreach organizer.

Why are you running for office?

I am running for office to improve the quality of life for every Houstonian, and to ensure that every districts representatives are held accountable for their districts constituents.

Houston has challenges with crime & delivery of public safe-t services. How would you address these needs?

It is important that all Houstonian’s are safe. I have an agenda to reform policing throughout the city, increasing the number of HPD bike patrol officers patrolling our communities. This approach will provide our neighborhoods with a consistent police presence. It will allow officers the ability to build rapport with community residents, and lessens the appearance of intimidation by officers patrolling on bicycle instead of by patrol car.

What do you propose to reduce CITY flooding? Funding?

Global warming is real, and we will continue to see a rise in extreme weather until we unify in find a solution to this very serious problem. In order to keep Houstonian’s safe from massive flooding, I believe that it’s important to invest in Houston’s parks. Green areas serve as a sponge able to absorb and store excess water. In addition investing in our parks will help beautify our city, and prevent us from having to construct engineered technology in order to remedy flooding.

How do you propose to accommodate population growth¹, attract high-paying jobs, and encourage new residents to live in Houston city limits?

Houston is constantly growing in population. My proactive agenda to accommodate our future residents with quality employment is by creating new green energy and technology jobs for the city of Houston. Houston experienced an economic boom in the 1980’s because of the oil and gas industry. As the world becomes less dependent on fossil fuels and more interested in energy sources like solar, and wind, Houston has the opportunity of creating a second economic boom, and becoming the worlds pioneer for the use of green energy.

I would also like to create an incentive for Houston residents who both work and live within the city limits. The number of Houstonian’s who work in the city but pay taxes outside of the city limits is growing rapidly. I want to reward residents who work and pay taxes in the city of Houston.

What do you think the role should be for MDs /TIRZs² and how would you work with community advocates³?

I believe that Management Districts and Tax ReInvestment Zones are both key elements for the betterment of our cities residents. They’re pivotal in our cities community improvement projects, infrastructure, housing, tourism and safety throughout the city. These entities in collaboration with District Representatives ensures that this city operates effectively.

Do you support keeping, modifying or eliminating the cap⁴?

With the cost of living increasing and wages remaining stagnant, I believe it’s important to not burden our residents financially by increasing taxes. I am support of keeping these rates as is, but I am not opposed to modifying these rates depending on the circumstances.

— END OF SUBMISSION —

Willie Davis - AtLarge 2
williedavisforcitycouncil.com
(713) 204-4252
wrayd4@gmail.com

Education and Experience?

B.A. of Theology, Master of Theology and 33yrs of Senior Pastoring in Houston and Chicago

Community Involvement?

Member of the Board of Trustess of HBU, Member of Houston Ministers Against Crime, Member of Houston Metropolitan Ministers Alliance, Past Religious Coordinator of NAACP Southwest Region, Past President of the Minister Advisory Board to the Mayor(Lee P. Brown, Bill White), Past Religious Representative of Children Defense Fund, Past Chair of "A Better Houston Coalition" and lead Minister of the fight against the City of Houston "HERO".

Why are you running for office?

I am running for office because the City Charter clearly defines the statutory duty of At Large Council member to supervise administrative officers, formulate policies and exercise city powers and most of our At Large Council is not carrying out the duties of their office. I'm also running because the office requires you to represent the entire city and not just a certain community or segment of the community.

Houston has challenges with crime & delivery of public safety services. How would you address these needs?

The theme of my campaign is "Let's Keep Houston Safe". The issue of crime is very serious to me and public safety. I introduced this argument four years ago when I ran for council, when I initiated the concern of increase crime in all of our communities. Whenever and wherever you have "prosperity crime follows." I have at least three proposals, (1) We need to hire 1,000 police officer to reduce crime in 669sq miles of city. (2) We need to initiate Community Policing to assure patrolling and protecting our communities by having more police presence. (3) We need to pay for this by a Zero Base Budget, removing the waste in our 5.5 Billion dollar budget and start from the bottom of the budget to the top in priority.

What do you propose to reduce CITY flooding? Funding?

The solution that I propose for flooding is to (1) Hold the Mayor and council to fulfill the obligation that we promised the citizens in repairing and replacing the drainage system that we are charging them for. There has not been any major work done in any community to fix the drainage problem. (2) I propose to revisit the Chapter 19 Floodplain Ordinance which I feel unfairly discriminates against many of our communities. (3) I propose that we need to drastically reduce trash in our drainage systems to include grass blown into our drainage system be monitored and serve citation to violators. We need to reduce building on land that should be used for the purpose of reducing flooding in many of our communities and the reduction of concrete.

How do you propose to accommodate population growth¹, attract high-paying jobs, and encourage new residents to live in Houston city limits?

The growth of Houston is uniquely different than any city in America and must be strategically planned and implemented. I first would propose to handle new incoming residence with affordable housing emphasizing safe communities and excellent schools. I would sale the City of Houston on high paying jobs base upon great schools and great transportation that is accessible all around the city. The way I would encourage new residence to live in the Houston city limits would be too present the accommodation of entertainment, sports, shopping stores and safe environment.

What do you think the role should be for MDs /TIRZs² and how would you work with community advocates³?

I think the role of Management Districts and Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones is to work closely and inclusively with the community leaders, community residents and the District Councilmen to assure adequate changes and improvement that the community need and want and not these organizations.

Do you support keeping, modifying or eliminating the cap⁴?

I absolutely support keeping the revenue cap and support modifying it only when we see more city management of our budget.

— END OF SUBMISSION —

Eric Dick - AtLarge 5
www.feeding.rocks

Education and Experience?

Lawyer and business owner

Community Involvement?

Trustee for HCDE

Why are you running for office?

Giving back to a city that has given me so much

Houston has challenges with crime & delivery of public safety services. How would you address these needs?

Not enough police.
Eliminate corruption and pay-for-play politics.

What do you propose to reduce CITY flooding? Funding?

Should spend money on actually reducing flooding instead of moving money around and paying for items in the general fund.

How do you propose to accommodate population growth¹, attract high-paying jobs, and encourage new residents to live in Houston city limits?

We have the best product. Texas has wonderful history and is a great state to live. Houston is a friendly city and should be the flagship of Texas. My family has been in Texas since 1800's and fought in the Alamo and Battle of San Jacinto. I believe in Houston.

What do you think the role should be for MDs /TIRZs² and how would you work with community advocates³?

I think it is positive for people to be engaged in government. Don't want taxation without representation. Should closely monitor TIRZ. Also houses corruption.

Do you support keeping, modifying or eliminating the cap⁴?

People voted. I support people. I support the revenue cap.

— END OF SUBMISSION —

Michael Griffin - AtLarge 2

mgriffin@kgriff.com

(713) 503-8064

Education and Experience?

University of St. Thomas, Sociology BA; Assistant Dean of Men University of St. Thomas. Organized the Astronaut Memorial 5 K Fun Run in conjunction with NASA and the University of St. Thomas. Athletic Director St. Theresa’s Grammar School. Small business owner for over 30 years in Montrose. Continuously employed in the Private Investigation service industry.

Community Involvement?

Sponsored youths for over 20 years, to attend professional sporting events, that could not have attended without Griff’s kindness. Created the first crime out program in Houston, Montrose Crime Out patrol program. Led fight to defeat Zoning. Griff, with Mayor Lee Brown and created Houston’s 311 Helpline. Created first family sections at Houston Rocket and Houston Texan games. Worked to defeat the ‘failed Rail on Richmond initiative. Since 2014 Griff has been actively seeking expansions and additions to the Houston area FREE HOV Weekends. This benefits those living around Kingwood, Clear Lake City, Southwest Houston Northwest Houston, NASA, Willowbrook, Eastside, and West Houston areas. Lobbied International Festival to reduce prices for youths.

Why are you running for office?

To ensure Senior Citizen’s are not forgotten. Our campaign receives feedback that traffic, flooding, reduce fees and fines in small business city inspections.

Houston has challenges with crime & delivery of public safety services. How would you address these needs?

Increase and expand presence based on the most acute areas. Expand Griff’s previous CRIME OUT Program. Griff initiated the first Crime Out Program in Houston.

What do you propose to reduce CITY flooding? Funding?

Gain consensus for policy actions. Funding has been paid for by over 100 Million in the last 5 years with the sewer tax.

How do you propose to accommodate population growth¹, attract high-paying jobs, and encourage new residents to live in Houston city limits?

Land use has been flexible and can readily meet demand. Since 2007, Houston has led the 52 major metropolitan areas in creating manufacturing, logistics, construction, and energy related occupations, paying more than 100K per year for many of these jobs.

What do you think the role should be for MDs /TIRZs² and how would you work with community advocates³?

More transparency and oversight, to mitigate Management Districts and TIRZ’s. Any spending that is not beneficial to business and neighborhoods is self absorbing and a waste of tax resources.

Do you support keeping, modifying or eliminating the cap⁴?

Keep the revenue cap for taxes because it works and is fair.

— END OF SUBMISSION —

Nick Hellyar - AtLarge 4

www.nickhellyar.com

nick@nickhellyar.com (Candidate)

karlos@nickhellyar.com (Campaign Manager)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/NickHellyarforHouston

Twitter: @NickHellyar

Education and Experience?

I grew up in central Houston, attending HISD public schools including Lanier Middle School and Lamar High School. After attending the University of Houston, I got my first exposure to public service, working as a staff member for a Houston City Council Member and a member of the Texas Legislature. It was this work — attending civic club meetings, responding to resident requests, and helping to deliver neighborhood level projects — that fostered my passion for public service and local government.

Community Involvement?

During my 30 years as a resident of Houston, I have served as a staffer for Houston City Council Member James Rodriguez (District I), as District Director for former State Representative Carol Alvarado (HD 145), and I have been involved with several local organizations. These include the Houston GLBT Political Caucus, where I served as a former Vice President & Board Member, as well as the Harris County Young Democrats, Houston Stonewall Young Democrats, and the Houston Association of Realtors.

Why are you running for office?

I am running because I recognize the importance of advocating for my neighbors and being a champion on the issues that matter to Houstonians. Right now, Houston's roads are in disrepair and our homes are flooding every time it rains. We must ensure our city has adequate infrastructure. We must also make public safety a priority. Our city needs a vision for the future. Although one term may not grant me enough time to completely tackle all the issues our city is facing, I will fight every day to move Houston forward and make our city a better, more equitable place to live.

Houston has challenges with crime & delivery of public safety services. How would you address these needs?

The Houston Police Department is severely understaffed — the city is currently at a 1200-officer deficit. Compared to other major cities, we simply do not have enough police officers to adequately protect residents. Funding public safety should always be a top priority. As an At-Large Council Member, I will work to increase the number of police officers patrolling our streets to keep us safe, and I will fight to ensure that our first responders receive the pay they deserve.

In addition, by reducing arrests for minor, nonviolent offenses, the City of Houston and the Houston Police Department would be able to divert more resources toward preventing and solving more serious crimes, which would have a positive impact on public safety.

What do you propose to reduce CITY flooding? Funding?

After Hurricane Harvey, the need to strengthen drainage and flood control has never been more urgent. As an At-Large Council Member, I will work to prioritize and expedite projects that do the most good by focusing on the worst areas first, both in drainage and flood control, as well as street repair and replacement. Repairing our streets is integral to improving flood mitigation because our streets are designed to hold water, which prevents floodwater from reaching our homes. There are several things we need to prepare for another catastrophic flood. Our area needs a third reservoir, we need to complete Project Brays, and we must expedite drainage improvement projects. We also need to ensure new development projects provide adequate flood detention and mitigation. To accomplish these things, we must have partners at the state and federal level, both in terms of providing funding and in prioritizing projects and approaching development in a holistic way. Lastly, the drainage tax should be spent on improving our flood mitigation infrastructure and nothing else.

How do you propose to accommodate population growth¹, attract high-paying jobs, and encourage new residents to live in Houston city limits?

In the next 20 to 30 years, our city will grow by over a million people and the Houston metropolitan area's population will nearly double. We must start working immediately to ensure we can deal with this increased density while providing a high quality of life for all Houstonians. It is important that we ensure several key factors are in place to attract and retain businesses and professional talent, which creates economic opportunity for Houston's residents. We need to incentivize continued job growth in Houston. Solid infrastructure, reliable public safety, easy mobility, and a high quality of life are critically important, and as an At-Large Council Member, I will work to make sure these vitally important services are maintained and improved.

I am also a strong proponent of modern and accessible mass transit in Houston. I support any program that improves our city's public transportation system and addresses our need for increased transit options to accommodate our population growth. As an At-Large Council Member, I will not only pursue ways to improve mass transit, but I will also aim to educate my neighbors on the importance of public transportation in an increasingly dense major city.

continued...

What do you think the role should be for MDs /TIRZs² and how would you work with community advocates ³?

TIRZs and other special districts have played an instrumental role in remaking and improving the infrastructure and aesthetics of Houston's neighborhoods. However, the residents of these districts deserve more transparency into how their tax dollars are being allocated within their neighborhoods. There should be an equal distribution of funds throughout the TIRZ and Management Districts to ensure that residents and businesses benefit from this tax money. I will be champion for our neighborhoods to ensure that there is increased transparency and improved communication between TIRZ/Management District leaders and voters.

I will also maintain an open-door policy so that all residents have the opportunity to participate in the decision-making process, and I will work with leaders from our Super Neighborhood Councils, civic clubs, and homeowners associations to ensure their issues are represented on City Council.

Do you support keeping, modifying or eliminating the cap⁴?

While I recognize the need for city government to spend prudently and live within its means, I believe the revenue cap is counterproductive. It offers little real tax savings to residents while exacerbating structural budget problems and hamstringing the City's ability to deliver core services. At the very least, I support efforts to amend the cap to increase spending on public safety.

— END OF SUBMISSION —

James Joe Joseph - AtLarge 4

JosephforHouston.com
unity@JosephforHouston.com
713.515.1364

Education and Experience?

EDUCATION

BS in Public Affairs and Minor in Business Administration
Texas Southern University Barbara Jordan – Mickey Leland
School of Public Affairs

Rice University Center for Civic Leadership Training Program

Diesel Mechanic Certification
Houston Community College

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Ministry Associate Pastor, Lyons Unity Missionary Baptist Church
Houston, TX

- Ministering the gospel and directing church activities and program development.
- Outreach, counseling, and strategic resource management.

Business

Independent Contractor, Houston Urban Consulting Houston, TX

- Created jobs throughout the community by organizing community cleanup efforts.
- Gave empowerment workshops with books I published to enrich community development.

Public Affairs

Founder/Director, Neighborhood Enrichment Xchange Houston, TX

- Established and maintained agency relationships to ensure services.
- Secured local, state, and federal grants, donations, and contributions for programs.
- Oversaw administrative procedures to meet objectives set by boards of directors.
- Planned and administered budgets for programs, equipment, volunteers, and support services.
- Planned and coordinated scheduled events, seminars, workshops and conventions.

Education & Administration

Admissions Administrator, Texas Southern University Houston, TX

- Direct support to graduate department heads and professional staff members.
- Manage graduate school academic/administrative operations, functions, and activities.
- Coordinate and tracking of internal and external assignments, information requests.
- Coordinate and arrange meetings, events, seminars, conferences and travel plans.
- Manage inquiries and correspondence, reports and documents.

Entrepreneurial Educator, WALIPP-TSU Preparatory Academy
Houston, TX

- Provided quality education and social development with hands-on learning experiences.

- Used a creative academic curriculum to build holistic student development and success.
- Provide youth with the opportunity to engage in entrepreneurship.

Community Involvement Specialist, North Forest ISD Houston, TX

- Coordinated school programs with district and school-based administrators, faculty, and staff.
- Supported development and sustainability of effective parent organizations.
- Identified and coordinated community resources for parent/school needs.

Logistics Management & Regulatory Compliance

Warehouse Logistics Supervisor, Cardinal Health Inc. Houston, TX

- Directed and managed warehouse associates for timely product distribution operations.
- Managed productivity, quality, and budgetary guidelines to drive Distribution Center goals.
- Coordinated preventive maintenance, all equipment repairs, and efficiency improvements.
- Optimized cost effective asset management for flawless service and transactions.
- Managed OSHA, DEA, FDA, QRA, State and local regulatory compliance and initiatives.

Facilities Supervisor, Metro Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority,
MARTA Atlanta, GA

- Provided primary managerial direction and personnel administration (training, supervising, assignments, timesheets, evaluations, etc.) to exceed productivity goals.
- Planned and supervised maintenance crew in all phases of repairs, cleaning, and work on Transit Centers, Park & Rides, Rail Stations, and equipment in all Public Facilities.
- Interpreted authority policies and procedures, instructions and specifications to staff.
- Managed maintenance personnel performance including first line labor relations.

Technical Diesel Mechanic, METRO Houston Houston, TX

- Maintained, diagnosed, and repaired, diesel engines and light and heavy-duty generators.
- Advised on client complaints; provided diesel engine and vehicle maintenance solutions.

Community Involvement?

No other At-Large #4 candidate has been as deeply involved in community:

Organizer, Annual Fall Festival at Lyons Unity Missionary Baptist Church

Blue Ribbon Committee, Houston Community College
Northeast

President, Blocks Organizing Neighborhood Defense

President, Super Neighborhood #55

Vice President, Legacy Health Inc., Community Advisory
Committee

National Society of Leadership and Success

American Planning Association

Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas Library
Committee

continued...

James Joe Joseph - AtLarge 4 ...*continued*

Why are you running for office?

Mission: I, James Joseph, am running because I love the great opportunity Houston has given me to prosper, give back, and serve as a community leader for many years. We each may contribute a verse to the story of Houston's unquenchable fire. I aim to give voice to community concerns and play a strategic role in Houston's future.

Goals/Issues: My pledge and promise is to lead the fight for stronger communities. My plan is to:

- 1) Cleanup illegal dumping to beautify our neighborhoods.
- 2) Bring more police protection so our seniors and children can be safe.
- 3) Improve infrastructure to bring more business, including major grocery chains to the food deserts throughout Houston.
- 4) Champion Transit-oriented development, particularly at Houston's High Speed Rail Transit HUB @ Northwest Mall.
- 5) Foster Economic Development that helps more people participate in Houston's prosperity.

I will offer a bold, marvelous, new energy Houston needs to channel our city's infrastructure for smart growth, better quality of life, and stronger communities. My aim is to make Houston an incubator for investment and innovation that our city needs to make Houston better.

Millions of people who will come and go through Houston, particularly through the High Speed Rail Transit HUB can experience how better mobility and smart growth by improved infrastructure, more business, and quality of life in throughout Houston. It has been 15 years since Mayor Lee Brown's vision started to move Houston forward. A large, diverse, group of Houstonians are supporting and joining me in my campaign to ensure the next 15 years offers a legacy true to Houston's full potential.

Expanding METRO to connect Bush airport could mean one to two dozen transit-oriented development projects that could attract investment and business to improve the quality of life in our city. A lot of what also encourages commerce is when the community is beautiful and safe. If we incentivize community gardens, farmers markets, community co-ops, hackathons, incubation projects, and adopt best practices from other municipalities, we may create better systems to deal with emerging community concerns.

With the rise of Nextdoor and other non-government measures to help neighbors feel safe, we must do our part to make sure city governance is doing its part to ensure foster stronger communities. Accountability systems play a big part in how communities change and create more of the conditions we desire. Encouraging neighbors to use the underutilized tool SeeClickFix lets us track and map action by responsible parties on concerns

in real-time.

To make honey and solve Houston's problems we need to cross-pollinate ideas and solutions. My campaign is distinguished in part by how I have been leading change in my community for some time. From serving on the HCC's Blue Ribbon Committee, helping seniors get into new homes, or organizing efforts to reduce hunger in food deserts, I have been on the pulse of what our community needs through the conversations I have fostered from events and block walking my city. This year will continue with my 3rd Annual Fall Fest with turkey giveaways to families in need and a forum for community leaders to engage their constituents. My contributions to community have been recognized on the national, state, and local level, through Congress, state officials, honors by Iota Phi Lambda, and the National Society of Leadership and Success.

Houston is a mecca for business and commerce settled by many independent-minded souls who seek a better life. As activist Angela Davis still inspires our cause,

"I no longer accept the things I cannot change; I change the things I no longer accept."

We will all be held accountable for what we have been given. I will offer the bold leadership to move the needle where it counts for Houston.

Houston has challenges with crime & delivery of public safety services. How would you address these needs?

Having worked closely with the longest-serving member of the Criminal Justice Legislative Oversight Committee, of the TEXAS House of Representatives, Harold Dutton, running the organization founded by former Mayor, Lee P. Brown, Blocks Organizing Neighborhood Defense, and led the efforts to get over 300 street lights turned on to reduce crime and make for better quality of life, I propose that Houston can bring more police protection so our seniors and children can feel safe.

I learn from putting people to work everyday throughout Houston on cleanup projects as an independent contractor that civic clubs want deed restrictions enforced, and how beautification and development also works to keep down crime. Strategic partnerships, much like I established with Starbucks CEO Howard Schwartz and more than 5,000 volunteers to repair over 1,200 homes, can go a long way toward strengthening communities.

I also propose that a focus on more violent crimes, which may include bail-reform measures for non-violent crimes, can help us make an impact to reduce crime where it counts. Because Houston's roads are the most deadly in the nation, I propose that public safety delivery will suffer if traffic continues out of control without smart, transformative, transit solutions.

continued...

James Joe Joseph - AtLarge 4 ...*continued*

What do you propose to reduce CITY flooding? Funding?

Having helped expedite the process for 241 seniors to get into new homes after Phase II Hurricane Harvey Relief, I agree with the city ordinance establishing building codes for new homes to increase the height of the foundation to prevent flooding in certain areas. Flood mitigation is something we have to care enough about, give priority to, and prepare for to prevent high water damage that we might very well anticipate.

The marginal cost to affected new construction from the new city ordinance requiring flood mitigation is warranted and makes sense for strategic growth and smart infrastructure to alleviate risk to residents and businesses who moved to area in good faith before excessive construction negatively impacted the area's flood dynamics. The buildup of property from 24 to 48 inches this new ordinance requires is a start to offset the effects of potential flooding. Money allocated for drainage and dredging also helps.

Requiring that those who have charge monitoring flood control are pre-eminently qualified is what I plan to ensure for proper and effective flood management.

Build Houston Forward has a responsible funding mechanism and straightforward program focus to keep the scope of projects on target. There is some amount of coordination worth having on other related projects that impact drainage. Concerns about how updates to the Hwy 288 project will impact flooding and drainage, although led by TXDOT, are consistent with the challenges Build Houston Forward is designed to take on.

Moreover, however noble the program's intentions, it is unclear what metrics or guidelines are in place for equitable delivery of service, what projects get priority, or what long-term planning looks like. While there is transparency on open projects, questions remain on whether many of the more routine 311 calls are not better accounted for by projects at scale than random short-term fixes. The disparity in infrastructure throughout Houston may reflect less on demographics given how there are still ditches in high and low-income neighborhoods. Since infrastructure is not an end unto itself, we may learn where Build Houston Forward projects fit within patterns of growth and development that may sustain and attract other investment for a more complete community.

Project segmentation by type distinctions: (repair, rehabilitate, reconstruct) all seem to be shown only as reconstruct on the project map, which requires more to learn whether there are systematic opportunities if inordinate amounts of projects occur in a location by types other than reconstruct. Together, we may do some reflective listening to learn and do more than we might otherwise. I welcome the efforts Build Houston Forward has made and hope that we may achieve more.

How do you propose to accommodate population growth¹, attract high-paying jobs, and encourage new residents to live in Houston city limits?

Beyond the METRONext Bond Referendum, which addresses several important measures, we need transit-oriented development, particularly for the millions of people who will flow in and out of town via Houston's High Speed Rail Transit Hub at Northwest Mall. I propose we encourage walkable communities and projects that keeps Houston housing affordable to live and offer better quality of life to attract high-paying jobs.

Much like the medical center, energy corridor, business districts, and the upcoming entrepreneurship district, we may encourage infrastructure for industry clusters and development with support from Greater Houston Partnership. With no equivalent world trade centers like Dallas, Atlanta, New York, or LA, Houston should design and plan for where we may support our international business community.

Poised to surpass Chicago in population growth, Houston would become the nation's 3rd largest city that is connected to a multi-billion dollar super-economy connected by a 90 minute bullet train with Dallas Metro area by the time of the next city council elections 4 years from now. Houston must do more to take full advantage with logistics for same-day delivery, strategic partnerships for jobs, training and education, retail and wholesale trade, and world-class health care delivery for millions who will come and go through via Houston's High Speed Rail Transit

continued...

James Joe Joseph - AtLarge 4 ...continued

What do you think the role should be for MDs /TIRZs² and how would you work with community advocates³?

The role of Management Districts and Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones should be to engage the community through Super Neighborhood Councils, civic organizations, homeowner associations, churches, etc. to incubate ideas for urban renewal that strengthen communities and make Houston better. Included in that role should be to function with accountability, transparency, and responsiveness to community.

My experience as the president of 5th Ward Civic Club and the only At-Large #4 Candidate who is president of a SuperNeighborhood, it would be imperative upon me to be accessible, seek input, and invite dialogue with the community through the strength of local organizations. I would foster communication and planning on what relevant project developments may best serve business and community.

Because state law prohibits a TIRZ from spending any money on maintenance, as a member of the American Planning Association, I would broker planning and partnerships on how important maintenance may be accounted for way ahead of project development. I would also ensure we better plan for contingencies where the city taps TIRZ funds in cases where it hits its revenue cap.

The president of the Sharpstown Civic Association, Jim Bigham, has said, "City Hall, where debt obligations are ballooning, has used these special taxing districts as something akin to a budget-relief valve, using TIRZ tax revenue to pay for basic infrastructure that has little to do with economic development."

I will use my policy expertise and background with American Planning Association to work with other council members and city comptroller to address issues more comprehensively to reduce one-time-fixes and haphazard patchworks of bureaucracy.

Do you support keeping, modifying or eliminating the cap⁴?

Yes. The improvements in efficiency and strategic planning that Houston's revenue cap encourages are favored even with the tradeoffs. Curtailed city services, including those that voters and businesses care most about, must be weighed against long-term benefits. While more certainty and limits on tax increases are favorable to businesses and residents, Houston still failed to attract Amazon, largely because certain infrastructure was not in place.

So in theory, revenue caps may serve as a check against out of control spending bloat and special interest pork, a comprehensive evaluation is the best way to measure outcomes. That is where listening to constituents will best determine how comfortable Houstonians are with services and growth. Moreover, our experience with Houston's revenue cap may tell how nimble we are to prepare for or weather through storms with reserves.

At the end of the day, Houston is flexible enough to entertain ideas that require investment beyond revenue cap limits, but the revenue cap concentrates attention more to the boldest, most deserving, and constructive ideas. If there is an idea to compete with the limits on revenue cap spending where we lift it, may the best idea win.

Who knows whether Houston could be trusted to maintain sound governance and budget accountability without a revenue cap? The revenue cap serves to institutionalize solvency while leaving enough room for growth and quality of life.

Ultimately, we should look at whether every dollar spent brings us closer to where we want to be. While there are always competing priorities, Houston's ability to offer more innovative solutions and strategic partnerships may be much more important than whether we have a revenue cap.

I am committed to listening closely to constituents to mastermind a great legacy, and believe Houston's can-do spirit will enable us to arrive at a better future together.

— END OF SUBMISSION —

Michael Kubosh- AtLarge 3

kuboshforcouncil.com
michaelkubosh@gmail.com
281-850-0172

Education and Experience?

MBA - Theology / Houston City Council for 6 years

Community Involvement?

Child Care Administrator over two foster group homes.
One in Brazoria County (ALL MY DREAMS YOUTH HOME) and Matagorda County (GULF COAST YOUTH RANCH). [(47 Foster Children, 6 lived in my home over the years, adopted one (1)]
I have been a little league baseball coach for 6 years, a Royal Ranger Leader, A BOY SCOUT TROUP LEADER (10 years). I have worked with Children for most of my life. Taken over 100 children each year while in office, from the Cuney homes to the UNIVERSOUL CIRCUS. Picked children up in buses and LIMO BUSES some years.

Why are you running for office?

To serve the people and promote good government locally.

Houston has challenges with crime & delivery of public safety services. How would you address these needs?

Increase the number of police.
Hold law breakers accountable.

What do you propose to reduce CITY flooding? Funding?

Use the money collected for the rain tax to actually fund flood mitigation projects. Over 700 million dollars has been collected since 2010 an no major flood mitigation projects have been funded by the rain tax (REBUILD HOUSTON)

How do you propose to accommodate population growth¹, attract high-paying jobs, and encourage new residents to live in Houston city limits?

Address the mobility situation and increase police to provide public safety so citizens will feel safe.

What do you think the role should be for MDs /TIRZs² and how would you work with community advocates ³?

Management Districts and TIRZ are created by the State Legislature as a way of serving the citizens that live in them. TIRZs were created to address the BLIGHT in the community. Super Neighborhood Councils, civic organizations, homeowner associations exists to promote safety, mobility and sustainability of the communities.

Do you support keeping, modifying or eliminating the cap⁴?

We do not have a REVENUE PROBLEM, WE HAVE A SPENDING PROBLEM. The city should go to a ZERO BASE BUDGETING FOR ALL DEPARTMENTS.

— END OF SUBMISSION —

Ericka McCrutcheon - AtLarge 4

erickaforcitycouncil.com

Facebook.com/erickaforcitycouncil

832-303-1068

Education and Experience?

University of Florida (Computer Science Major); Rhema Bible College (Practical Ministry and Biblical Studies) Grand Canon University (Online Student - BS Christian Studies)

Community Involvement?

President of Kirkwood Civic Club, Member of Super Neighborhood, Business Owner, Member of South Belt Chamber of Commerce, Co-Pastor of Joint Heirs Fellowship Church

Why are you running for office?

Our great City needs principled, dedicated, and determined leadership to serve and make a difference in the lives of people in our City. I am running to supply leadership and to improve the quality of life for all Houstonians.

Houston has challenges with crime & delivery of public safety services. How would you address these needs?

Public Safety is crucial to the overall welfare of the City, so dealing with this issue is most important. Community safety is the responsibility of everyone! Therefore, Community Leaders, Schools, Law Enforcement, and the Faith-Based Community must work together to educate, to bring awareness, and to develop watchful action plans to win over crime in every community. The concept of Community Policing makes for good public policy and good community relations and serves as a deterrent to the criminal element. Thus, I support the hiring of more Police Officers and community policing strategy for coalition-building with Community Business Leaders, Faith Leaders, Civic Clubs, and Super Neighborhoods Leader throughout our City.

What do you propose to reduce CITY flooding? Funding?

There are really no new ideas to bring because we have been long on ideas but short on action. Houston's flooding is a whole issue involving the City, County, State and Corp of Engineers. These agencies work together in concert to manage the water runoff and control flooding for the Houston area. Resiliency and protection by the City start with the basics of proper maintenance by cleaning debris and unclogging the existing dated drainage systems. Repairing, replacing, and enlarging the underground conduits for water flow will help mitigate the water build-up allowing water to run off faster. The homeowner should become familiar with their communities' water tables and drainage runoff and make personal efforts to prevent water build upon their properties. We must also educate service workers who often blow leaves, cut grass, etc. down the drains. The City should increase efforts to encourage every home and business owner to bag leaves and grass clippings and to carry Flood Insurance. Education is the key! I encourage Civic Clubs, HOA's, Super Neighborhoods to participate in the "Adopt-A-Drain" Campaign throughout our Communities to help clear our drains of debris. Funding? In 2010 Houston Voters approved a drainage tax, (with a lockbox, pay as we go fund) for the express purposes of mitigating the flooding

issues of our City. This program roll-out in 2012 with lockbox money for the express purpose of flood mitigation projects. Then there was Rebuild Houston 2015 and now Build Houston Forward 2019. Where is the capital, and why is it not working for Houstonians? I support measures that rebuild Houston and that move Houston forward. However, there must be careful oversight of project capital to ensure that tax dollars are appropriately used. This is why I support a "third party" audit for the City of Houston adding a layer of accountability to ensure fiscal responsibility and that the tax dollars are not wasted. We must and should fund the project with the appropriated money from our tax dollars.

How do you propose to accommodate population growth¹, attract high-paying jobs, and encourage new residents to live in Houston city limits?

We must work at improving the character and reputation of our City! Public Safety is the dinner bell for every City. Mitigating the flooding issues and having excellent public policies will draw good businesses and families. Other essential factors to keep Houston active and advancing in economic growth and development are affordable housing, good hospitals, schools, and institutions of high learning to educate for marketability for the local job markets. Having a City Hall that is well-managed, tax dollars accounted for, and low taxes will also be a plus and a drawing card. We must offer an opportunity for all communities and peoples to be safe. Nothing else matters in a City if safety and security is not a priority.

What do you think the role should be for MDs /TIRZs² and how would you work with community advocates³?

The Management District (created by the State Legislature) and TIRZ (Created by City Council) are additional tools designed to help supplement and finance public improvement projects and to promote, empower and develop communities in areas of the general welfare. Super Neighborhood Councils and Civic Organizations are the smaller units of our local Municipal governments. Citizens within their communities generally know the needs of their community and what works best. I will work to establish and strengthen collaborative Leadership within local communities so they can take the lead on projects and community development strategies for their communities. Empower the people within their communities to do the work.

Do you support keeping, modifying or eliminating the cap⁴?

In 2004 Houston voters approved a City Charter amendment which limited the City's overall property tax rate to the combined prices of inflation and population growth, or 4.5%, whichever is lower. The Charter, as it stands, limits the City's overall property tax rate increase without voter approval. In other words, the voter must be involved before taxes can be increased. As it is now, the ad valorem tax makes up approximately 45% of the City's overall income. I believe this ordinance makes for good public policy to involve the voters if a property tax increase is necessary. I also welcome open dialogue and data exploration that support the needs to modify or repeal the 2004 City Charter Amendment; otherwise, I like the voter-approved measure of this ordinance.

— END OF SUBMISSION —

Marvin McNeese - AtLarge 5
marvinmcneese.com
marvin@marvinmcneese.com
Facebook/Twitter: #McNeeseForMe
832-305-0173

Education and Experience?

Motivated by public services, I have prepared myself technically for public service. I have a master's degree in public administration and public policy from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at UT Austin, a master's in Latin American Studies, and a Ph.D. in political science from Rice University. I have taught American and Texas Politics for 13 years. On an ad hoc basis, I have written grants and consulted with faith-based nonprofits since 2003.

Community Involvement?

Yet my real value is my problem-solving skills. I'm typically able to identify a problem, ingest large volumes of information about it, tie relevant pieces to timeless principles, and persuade and organize people towards a solution. A good example is my current house. Though we could have purchased a house anywhere in Houston, my wife and I chose to buy from Guiding Light CDC of New Guide Missionary Baptist Church, in Third Ward. The purchase demolished a neighborhood crack house and delivered \$12,000 in profit to the CDC. Plus, as the CDC's first homebuyer, we paved the way for the future development of over 30 other houses in the neighborhood.

I serve locally in two neighborhood associations (University Village Homeowners Association, Emancipation Economic Development Council). I have been a member at Houston's First Baptist Church, since 1993, and a Deacon there since 2005, through which I have participated in outreaches to children inside and outside the church; HISD high schoolers, area widows and refugees, and international missions. I donate blood regularly with Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center and coach Little League at the Texans and Trotter YMCA and Emancipation Park.

Why are you running for office?

Most folks get discouraged by politics, I get excited about it. It's been this way since my youth. On Sundays I would grab two sections of the newspaper: the comics and the politics section. I welcome the challenge of finding solutions to these issues, to dealing with multi-faceted institutions, gobs of legal minutia, and that in a sustained way over a prolonged period of time. That's me! That's my motivation. I am inspired by both the challenge and by the hope of making things better for others.

Houston has challenges with crime & delivery of public safety services. How would you address these needs?

Houston needs more investigators to follow-up on evidence--more abundant than ever due to surveillance cameras and cell phones--to catch more criminals. As the City adds the 1200 officers already committed, we need to shift senior officers into investigation. (Read more at <http://marvinmcneese.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Police.pdf>) Also, we can improve response effectiveness by creating a way for officers of different commands who nevertheless patrol the same areas to jointly respond to calls for assistance. This will improve safety for the responding officers, also.

What do you propose to reduce CITY flooding? Funding?

To the extent that Federal and County funding is delayed, we need to dedicate local Build Houston Forward (drainage fee) revenues to downstream bayou projects, especially on White Oak, Greens, Buffalo and Braes Bayou to prevent future Harvey like damage. Then use the Federal and County funds to pay Houston back (Read more at <https://marvinmcneese.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Drainage.pdf>)

How do you propose to accommodate population growth¹, attract high-paying jobs, and encourage new residents to live in Houston city limits?

Affordable housing (within 3x the median income, currently \$60,000), low crime, and good schools are the key to attracting a large number of folks to live within Houston city limits instead of the surrounding areas. City Council cannot directly affect schools, but we can do better on solving crime, especially in our disadvantaged neighborhoods, which are also the most likely places for building attractive and affordable housing using local TIRZ national HUD revenues. The other key is to be very responsive in improving the physical infrastructure of neighborhoods as they experience commercial and residential development.

What do you think the role should be for MDs /TIRZs² and how would you work with community advocates³?

Community associations are vital links between City of Houston representatives and citizens. As the At Large 5 City Council member, I would send staff or personally attend all civic associations larger than the homeowners associations at least twice a year. For TIRZ in particular, because they direct the spending of public funds, I would require that they too send representatives to attend the meetings of the civic associations with overlapping jurisdictions. Moreover, I favor implementing the recommendations of Your Houston PAC regarding ways to increase transparency with the TIRZ: meetings recorded and livestreamed; meetings held after 5pm on weekdays; and agendas, minutes, and videos posted on dedicated websites.

Do you support keeping, modifying or eliminating the cap⁴?

I support keeping the property tax revenue cap in order to help keep housing affordable. (What's more necessary is to limit the growth in housing appraisals at the county level; were this to happen, we might not need the property tax revenue cap.) I support modifying the cap to allow for new construction as well as growth in population and inflation to allow the City the required resources to serve the new workers/users and built environment brought in through new construction.

— END OF SUBMISSION —

Letitia Plummer - AtLarge 4

PlummerForHouston.com

832-844-1429

info@plummerforhouston.com

Facebook: @letitiaforhouston

Twitter: @plummer4hou

Instagram: @Letitia4houston

Education and Experience?

I attended Spelman College and graduated with a degree in Biology before attending Baylor College of Dentistry. I have spent the last 20 years in the public and private sectors of healthcare and have firsthand knowledge of creating access to a community healthcare system for everyone. During my 20-year career as a small business owner, I have balanced budgets, created jobs, and manage a successful small business that focuses on caring for the health and welfare of my patients. I am also a former congressional candidate for the Texas 22nd District.

Community Involvement?

I have been involved with SHAPE Center- Houston, Houston Food Bank, American Red Cross, Family Reunification Activist, Business Plan Training Program for NAACP, Legislation Writing Class- Nolan Ryan Middle School, Donate a Smile, Sisters of Salam-Shalom, Houston Black American Democrats, LGBTQ Caucus, ROAD Woman, and Higher Heights.

Why are you running for office?

Since the early 1960s, my family has improved the welfare of Houstonians in health, education, and law and it is my sincere desire to continue to carry the torch. As a Houstonian, proud product of the HISD school system and successful entrepreneur. I am ready to give back all that my city has poured into me. The experience of raising 3 young men as a single mother ignites the desire to create opportunities, generate innovative solutions and build a prosperous Houston for everyone regardless of race or socio-economic limitations. It's time for working people to have access to all that this great city has to offer.

Houston has challenges with crime & delivery of public safety services. How would you address these needs?

The bulk of the City of Houston budget directed to Police and Fire. There is a law enforcement shortage in the city and the primary reason for that is because can not afford to graduate more cadets. As our city grows to soon be the 3rd largest city in the Nation we need to focus on the proper allocation of funds for police/safety. Combined with increased funding for public safety, there needs to be a greater emphasis on improving the social and economic conditions of low-income neighborhoods and after school programs. With more funding for public safety we can increase police officers, substations, officer residents in multi-family dwellings and overall presence. Some studies show that increasing police presence or having more involved police via community policing does not decrease crime, but acts as a deterrent. Since the socio-economic conditions are the biggest driver of crime the focus needs to be jobs and programming for our youth (middle to High School). By improving the quality of life for our low-income neighborhoods and promoting business growth, we can not only increase economic prosperity, but also lower crime rates. And by

expanding after school programs, that allows parents to stay at jobs longer while also helping those children improve the social and academic skills that they will need in the future.

What do you propose to reduce CITY flooding? Funding?

In order for us to move forward as a city we must acknowledge why we are in the situation we are in and how do we move in the proper direction with an economic, scientific and community oriented approach. I am a supporter of the Build Houston Forward program which will improve drainage in the city and rebuild roads in order for Houston to have the proper infrastructure. We need to implement ordinances that require additional retention for construction builders both commercial and residential, all new construction must be on a 500 year floodplain, deep dive into rebuilding areas that have flooded on more than 2 occasions and restrictions for large construction firms against building plants in residential areas, continuing to clean our drainage systems and the city should create an optimal relationship with the HCFCF.

To ensure we have the funding for this, we must ensure the drainage fee and bond monies are spent in the way in which they are earmarked, I will utilize my relationships with the State officials to continue to access funding from the State/FEMA and lean on management districts and TIRZs to help fund these projects.

How do you propose to accommodate population growth¹, attract high-paying jobs, and encourage new residents to live in Houston city limits?

Houston is #1 in job creation and has a lower cost of living than many of the other Metropolitan cities. Yes we have over 20 Fortune 500 companies and the lowest unemployment rates. Yet, we have communities that resemble 3rd world countries, lead in homelessness and have more uninsured residents than other metro cities. We can encourage these new residents and simultaneously take care of the folks we currently have. Our city largest downfall is the lack of infrastructure and inferior public transportation. Our city planning should be determined by experienced City Planners and not TDOT. We need to repair our infrastructure, mitigate flooding with initiatives and city ordinances, move away from the freeway systems, create walkable spaces, allowing Metro and Metro Rail to be free during business hours, and when building freeways we prepare for rail conversion.

To bring high-paying jobs to the city, we should foster partnerships between large and small businesses as smaller businesses can foster low-skill employees into highly-trained and specialized employees that can go work for large businesses. As we increase our specialized workforce, more high-paying jobs will come to the city looking to hire our skilled employees. As the energy capital of the world, we should aim to attract the green energy industry as well so Houston has a new high-paying industry and show why we deserve the title we have.

continued...

What do you think the role should be for MDs /TIRZs² and how would you work with community advocates ³?

The role of Management Districts and TIRZs should be helping the communities they're a part of with certain projects the city doesn't have the money for, and fulfilling their designated role of supplementing, not supplanting, city services. However, they are currently not doing that, sometimes using the money they get for vanity or unnecessary projects. We need to work to make sure that management districts and TIRZs are more transparent. Management districts and TIRZs also need to listen to the communities they're in and organizations within them such as HOAs, Super Neighborhood Councils, and civic organizations. Since management districts and TIRZs take money from these communities for the proposed purpose of improving communities, then they should do so and listen to those community organizations. I would work to ensure that their voices are heard and that these communities are improved. It is my goal to also regularly attend community meetings with these organizations so I can hear about their concerns and visions for their communities to better serve those areas.

Do you support keeping, modifying or eliminating the cap⁴?

I believe that we need to eliminate or modify the revenue cap. According to a study by the University of Houston, the revenue cap saved the average homeowner under \$500 total between 2014-2017, but cost the city more than \$533 million in revenue loss. Due to the implementation of the revenue cap, the total spending of public works and engineering projects has decreased by over 70% and street drainage system funding went from a 122% total net increase pre-revenue cap to a 40% net decrease post-revenue cap. While modifying or eliminating it, we can ensure that the infrastructure is improved, pay parity for police and fire, increased affordable housing and complete community construction, adequate lighting at our parks in low-income areas, outdoor and green spaces, drainage, full insurance benefits for our city employees and much more.

— END OF SUBMISSION —

Education and Experience?

Psychology Major, I have over 25 years of experience in working with youth involved in gangs, drugs use, and homelessness. In addition to working with Houston's children to help them find their voice through educational workshops and leadership activities.

Fought against the Cradle to Prison Pipeline

Educated individuals and fought against youth gangs, drugs, and homelessness,

Organized Back to School Fairs,

Coordinated the "Teen Evolution" Youth Conferences,

Advocated for our youth in the juvenile justice system,

Expanded business opportunities statewide through my work with Texas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and collaboration

Organized statewide professional development opportunities,

Advocated for individuals to have a voice in all levels of government,

Advocated to preserve the Cultural Arts

Organized strategic partnerships to empower communities

Advocated for responsible development which is inclusive of community input

Worked with Construction companies and Developers in engaging small businesses to increase opportunities

Community Involvement?

I've worked to raise money for youth to go to college through Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo

Advocated to preserve the Cultural Arts

Coordinated the "Teen Evolution" Youth Conferences through my non profit

Why are you running for office?

I have worked to serve Houston communities in various capacities for over 25 years. While Houston has made a great deal of progress, there is still much work to be done. I determined that the time had come where I could best serve Houston by working to change and/or improve city operations from the inside.

I like many Houstonians was greatly impacted by Harvey flooding, and I am committed to working to ensure the city is making the necessary, fiscally responsible, changes, upgrades, and repairs as expeditiously as possible.

I am committed to ensuring we have a fiscally responsible and efficient city.

Houston has challenges with crime & delivery of public safety services. How would you address these needs?

Public Safety is a priority. I will work with council, the mayor, and the Houston Police department to assess where and how to leverage existing resources to access the funding needed to increase the number of cadet classes, recruitment efforts, and increase the number of police officers we have on patrol.

What do you propose to reduce CITY flooding? Funding?

I intend to work closely with the Waste Water and Public Works departments to ensure they have the resources needed to effectively address sewage and drainage issues.

Review and assess expenditures to determine departmental efficiency, and assist in streamlining fiscal management.

I will also work to expedite existing flood mitigation projects, and work to ensure the city is addressing citizen needs, while operating in a fiscally responsible manner, and increased transparency.

How do you propose to accommodate population growth¹, attract high-paying jobs, and encourage new residents to live in Houston city limits?

Houston's urban areas are already experiencing extreme congestion, it is necessary to implement smart city strategies that will support this growth. It is necessary to review strategies that are working in other cities and determine the feasibility of implementation in Houston.

We must also work with developers to ensure they are building responsibly with consideration to parking and mobility issues that we are experiencing in Houston's urban area's, in addition to ensuring we maintain affordable housing for our citizens.

I propose to work closely with institutions of higher learning trade schools, and businesses to encourage increased internship opportunities, provide job skill development opportunities. We must increase the skill level attainment in order to attract new business to provide higher paying jobs.

Ultimately we want businesses to hire local talent to continue promoting Houston's economic stability.

What do you think the role should be for MDs /TIRZs² and how would you work with community advocates³?

Management districts and TIRZ should be working towards, expanding opportunities for their communities, attracting resources, economic advancement, and represent the best interests of their respective citizens. Other organizations should be operating in a supportive manner to the area's they occupy, share information, provide forums for citizens to congregate and have their issues addressed.

Do you support keeping, modifying or eliminating the cap⁴?

I am proposing a comprehensive assessment of all city departments to increase transparency to the citizens of Houston, determine where there is wasteful spending, and streamlining operations to increase citizen services, prior to considering making a determination regarding the revenue cap.

— END OF SUBMISSION —

David Robinson- AtLarge 2

davidwrobinson.org
dwr4hou (Facebook and Twitter)

for your concerns and inquiries -
campaign@davidwrobinson.org

Education and Experience?

Rice University and Yale University - Architect;
incumbent City Council Member

Community Involvement?

I was President of the Super Neighborhood Alliance,
Neartown President, member of the board of the Montrose
Management District and a three time Commissioner to the
City of Houston.

Why are you running for office?

I'm seeking my third and final term as
City Council-member At Large 2

Houston has challenges with crime & delivery of public safety services. How would you address these needs?

I am a believer in community based policing. With support for the current direction of HPD under the leadership of Chief Art Acevedo, I look forward to protecting our communities with Houston's finest, especially when it comes to the foremost aspiration of keeping the peace.

What do you propose to reduce CITY flooding? Funding?

This would include a long list of projects of jurisdictional authorities including the City of Houston, Harris County and beyond. As chairman of the Transportation, Technology, and Infrastructure (TTI) committee, my responsibility is to provide leadership from the city to resiliency projects and coordinate the formulating of sources of funding.

How do you propose to accommodate population growth¹, attract high-paying jobs, and encourage new residents to live in Houston city limits?

The expansion of infrastructure and seeking ways to prevent flooding roads are two dominant keys to manage projected growth in the region.

What do you think the role should be for MDs /TIRZs² and how would you work with community advocates³?

In my experience with working with Management Districts and TIRZ's over the past two decades, I have seen both success and failure for a variety of reasons. As the current councilman, it is my responsibility to guide the Management Districts and TIRZs in their mission and ability to change within their geographical defined areas. I will continue to work on actualizing their missions.

Do you support keeping, modifying or eliminating the cap⁴?

Eliminate. While operating under a revenue cap, the City faces ongoing challenges to operate efficiently with the responsibility for a growing population and aging infrastructure. The City was uniquely targeted by the State Legislature. Without a more coordinated approach toward taxation between the Texas Legislature and local governance, it appears the City will be forced to proceed in a defensive posture.

— END OF SUBMISSION —

Raj Salhotra- AtLarge 1

rajforhouston.com

713-320-0303

raj@rajforhouston.com

Education and Experience?

I am a native Houstonian with a bachelor's degree in Economics and Policy Studies from Rice University as well as a recent graduate of Harvard Law School. I taught high school math through Teach for America at YES Prep Southwest. I have served as an Intern in the office of the Mayor of Houston where I was responsible for creating policy recommendations on economic development issues: specifically flooding issues, property taxes, and the strategic development of improvements to Houston's emergency services. I also worked with Houston City Councilmember Stephen Costello and gained firsthand experience of the variety of issues councilmembers face in a city as large as Houston. I engaged directly with constituents on behalf of the councilmember, working to respond to requests related to Vehicles for Hire and taxation issues, as well as prepare speeches and policy memos focused on topics such as municipal pensions, workforce development, the city budget, pension reform, and infrastructure development.

Community Involvement?

I have invested in my community through the creation of the non profit organizations One Jump and Students with Ambition Go (SWAG) to College which are both focused on preparing low income Houston area students prepare for and succeed in college. Through these experiences, I have learned about what Houstonians want and how we can support all Houstonians in succeeding.

Why are you running for office?

I am running for office to help shape and enact policies to ensure all Houstonians, regardless of background, have the opportunity to reach their dreams. As a teacher here Houston, I got to meet students who experienced different types of adversity in their daily life. Some were homeless, some lacked a car and struggled on Houston's inadequate public transit system, and some flooded three times in three years leaving their living situation in a state of instability. Seeing their dogged pursuit of education in spite of all these obstacles moved me to find a way to use my knowledge and experience to make their city a better place for them. Houston is a diverse, growing, prosperous city in which the economic inequality is still rampant. Over 20% of our communities are trapped in poverty, and Houston is the 15th most economically-unequal city in America. We must expand opportunity so all Houstonians have the chance to reach their potential and earn a livable wage that provides for their families. I am running for office because I want to make One Houston that works for all its residents a reality.

Houston has challenges with crime & delivery of public safety services. How would you address these needs?

In a city as large and diverse as Houston, it will take cooperation between communities and law enforcement to ensure the safety of all. In order to address crime in Houston, we need to take more concerted steps towards developing community policing. We can do this by increasing Houston Police Department storefronts to build more direct connections and relationships within these communities and create a sense of investment in our communities by law enforcement officials. In order to make sure that these storefronts are adequately staffed, we should work to increase the size of our police force, prioritizing diversity within the ranks so that our police force looks like the communities they are working to protect, and increasing size commensurate to population growth.. As a city, we should provide kids and young adults with after school and summer programs to keep young folks engaged in their communities. By focusing on developing better connections between different law enforcement agencies, we can improve public safety for everyone.

What do you propose to reduce CITY flooding? Funding?

Focus on flood mitigation in Houston is vital to support the work being done to improve the overall quality of life. We should prioritize sustainable development by expanding green spaces and parks to improve floodwater detention and retention. We should help homebuyers and investors in Houston by requiring sellers to share the latest information on a property's flood risk. We should also enforce building ordinances and develop a regional flood mitigation plan in collaboration with the Harris County Flood Control District, the State of Texas, and the Army Corps of Engineers. We should advocate for and support the Army Corps of Engineers in building a 3rd reservoir to stop excessive floodwater runoff; develop a system of pumps and tunnels to store and transport water to the Gulf, and improve street drainage by unclogging and cleaning Houston's drains. We should improve Alert Houston to ensure all Houstonians receive alerts through text message, email, phone call, and social media, about flooding and dangerous driving conditions; launch a campaign to educate Houstonians on steps households can take to improve floodwater detention, and expand the "Adopt-A-Drain" program. We should also encourage the use of renewable energy by requiring all city vehicles be either hybrid or electric vehicles, provide a Green Bank that sustainably funds residential/commercial retrofits or clean energy installations, and procure clean energy for all City of Houston facilities alongside other cities. Funding for these improvements could be drawn from an exemption to the city budget's revenue cap and should also be sought through state and federal grants as well as through investment from the local business community to build partnerships to help protect Houston for events like Hurricane Harvey.

continued...

How do you propose to accommodate population growth¹, attract high-paying jobs, and encourage new residents to live in Houston city limits?

The greatest comparative advantage we have in Houston is the diversity of our city, from a population and resource standpoint. We should work to create high-paying jobs in every community. We should provide incentives for Houston's small-business and startups to succeed, use the procurement process to ensure anyone hired by the city earns a livable wage, and support innovation by partnering with organizations like Station Houston, The Cannon, and Impact Hub. We should partner with nonprofit housing developers like Avenue CDC to ensure housing remains affordable and pilot community land trusts to help protect communities from gentrification, to make sure that all Houstonians have safe, cost effective places to live. We should expand educational opportunity for all students by offering universal high-quality, affordable child-care and pre-K, encourage Houstonians to tutor students after school, and leverage Houston's incredible business community to partner in providing workforce development opportunities for our low-income high school students. We should invest in the city's Vision Zero plan so Houston has 0 pedestrian or cyclist deaths. We must improve sidewalks, increase lighting and signage at cross streets, and partner with organizations like LINK Houston to design solutions for our most dangerous intersections. We should work with METRO to increase bus services, particularly in underserved areas; expand the light rail to Hobby Airport; develop the Bus Rapid Transit line to Bush airport; and pass a robust bond package to fund future expansions to reduce travel times. We should support METRO's work through METRO Next to increase connector buses to provide first mile-last mile support for Houstonians.

What do you think the role should be for MDs /TIRZs² and how would you work with community advocates ³?

Management districts and TRZs provide opportunities to engage the business community and support them as they invest in the areas where they are based. They are a useful tool for businesses to have a stake in communities and provide them a sense of community responsibility in their business and hiring practices. As an At-Large member of the Houston city council, being engaged with organizations from across the city will help me develop a better understanding of the individual identity of each part of Houston and identify connections in needs and resources across the city, so as to efficiently solve problems faced by communities in and around Houston. I will prioritize attending community meetings to let all Houstonians know that they have an at large council member who is invested in understanding their issues and developing solutions that fit their unique needs. Throughout this campaign, we have worked to ensure that we have a presence at meetings all across Houston and have engaged with Houstonians from all parts of the city and its surrounding areas. We have called more than 80,000 Houstonians, texted more than 30,000, and engaged more than 18,000 through one on one interactions through blockwalking.

We have an ethos of showing up, which will continue once I am in office. I will work to help create community councils to provide residents with a more personalized venue for talking about problems affecting their specific community and create solutions that best fit their identity and their needs. To support these communities, we should also work to create internship opportunities for high school and college aged residents who have relationships within the communities to provide all of their residents with access to community liaisons who can form connections between these communities and the city government.

Do you support keeping, modifying or eliminating the cap⁴?

I do not support the revenue cap because it prevents the City from "banking funds" in good times to be used in downturns. Although we cannot repeal the revenue cap until 2021 (as per the City Charter) and now the state requires a vote anytime a city wants to raise property tax revenue by more than 3%, I believe the revenue cap should be repealed or modified. Moreover, because of the revenue cap, the City has had millions less in funding to spend on programs to increase economic opportunity for all Houstonians, to enhance flood mitigation for all Houstonians, and to boost public safety for all communities. In the short run, I would support (just as happened under the Mayor White administration) an exemption from the revenue cap to fund public safety.

— END OF SUBMISSION —