



May 5, 2026  
Hon. Mayor John Whitmire and Houston City Council  
City Hall  
901 Bagby  
Houston Texas, 77002

RE: Letter of Support – Fiscal Year 2027 Budget

Dear Mayor Whitmire and Members of City Council,

As business and civic leaders focused on ensuring Houston's long-term financial strength and economic success, we are writing to express our strong support for the mayor's proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Budget. Taking meaningful steps to address the City's long-term structural financial health is critical to maintaining our economic momentum and putting the city on a long-term, sustainable fiscal path.

Since taking office, Mayor Whitmire has prioritized the City's financial stability by targeting waste, fraud, and inefficiency in pursuit of a structurally balanced budget. Under his leadership, the City commissioned its first efficiency study and implemented its recommendations to streamline operations, extend voluntary retirement buyouts to approximately 1,000 employees, and partnered with City leadership to achieve significant cost savings, all while improving service for residents. We encourage the City to continue to prioritize efficient and effective business practices that positively impact the budget.

We believe the Mayor has a demonstrated track record of addressing cost drivers, and now is the time to consider implementation of additional revenue streams to meet resident demand for services. Houston is one of the few major metropolitan cities that does not have a dedicated solid waste collection fee or right-of-way fee. Modest solid waste and right-of-way fees offer the most effective way to generate sustainable revenue while maintaining essential services. Implementation of solid waste and right-of-way fees brings Houston in line with our peer cities and ensures dedicated funding sources for these important City services. These solutions will help Houston maintain its reputation as an affordable, thriving, and forward-looking city prepared for continued growth.

Finally, this budget proposal takes meaningful steps to address the structural budget challenges the City has faced for decades. By taking these steps during this budget cycle, the City is protecting the general fund to ensure it delivers effective police, fire, EMS and other services Houstonians deserve.



We commend the Whitmire Administration and City Council for their efforts to pass a budget that meets the dynamic needs of Houstonians and prioritizes the long-term fiscal health of the city.

Developing a fiscally responsible budget should incorporate stakeholder input each budget cycle to ensure current and future proposals reflect the needs of a dynamic city like Houston. We remain committed to working collaboratively with the Mayor and City Council in future budget cycles to build on this effort to strengthen the City's financial foundation so that Houston's business and civic communities can continue to thrive.

Thank you for your leadership,

