



The Leader of Houston's New Majority®

May 5, 2026

The Honorable John Whitmire
901 Bagby Street
Houston, TX 77002

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Dr. Laura Murillo

Dear Mayor Whitmire,

On behalf of the Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the thousands of Hispanic-owned businesses and entrepreneurs we represent across the Greater Houston region, we write to express our support for the proposed FY27 budget and the tools used to address the City's budget gap.

We support the Mayor's overall approach to confronting Houston's fiscal challenges, including the creation of a dedicated administrative fee and the strategic use of enterprise fund resources to support essential city services. We also appreciate the administration's commitment to engaging stakeholders and maintaining transparency throughout this process.

We recognize and appreciate the City's effort to move beyond one-time fixes—such as the use of federal funds and the sale of City properties—and instead focus on addressing underlying structural challenges. Treating solid waste as a utility and establishing a dedicated funding source is an important step in that direction, helping to ensure long-term sustainability while more clearly aligning the cost of services with how they are funded. Houston's small business community—particularly minority- and Hispanic-owned businesses—relies on a stable and well-managed city to grow and thrive, and these reforms help lay that foundation.

At the same time, we encourage careful consideration of how these policies may impact small businesses and working families. As new fees are implemented, it will be important to evaluate their cumulative effect—particularly on entrepreneurs and communities already navigating tight margins and rising costs.

The Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce stands ready to serve as a partner and resource as the City continues to refine and implement these policies. We appreciate your leadership in guiding Houston through this critical moment and look forward to continued collaboration to ensure our local economy remains strong, inclusive, and resilient.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dr. Laura Murillo
President & CEO
Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

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