

**TEXAS GULF COAST  
AREA LABOR FEDERATION**  
— AFL • CIO —

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May 27, 2026

Dear Mayor Whitmire and Houston City Council Members,

On behalf of the Texas Gulf Coast Area Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, we are writing to express our support for Mayor Whitmire's proposed FY27 budget.

The City of Houston has faced a worsening structural imbalance between its revenues and expenditures for many years, and for too long City Council has kicked the can down the road. The City cannot meet growing demands without making difficult choices.

This budget takes important first steps to putting the City on a sustainable financial footing while protecting the hardworking City employees who deliver essential services every day.

The Mayor has committed to Houstonians to maintain reliable public services without balancing the budget on the backs of municipal employees through layoffs, deep staffing reductions, or cuts that weaken basic operations, and this budget does that.

Avoiding layoffs is not just a workforce issue. It is a service-delivery issue. When the City loses experienced employees, residents feel it through slower response times, delayed repairs, reduced reliability, and weaker day-to-day services. Protecting the City workforce protects the public.

We support three new methods in this budget to fund City services and protect the City workforce in this budget: declaring Solid Waste a municipal utility, establishing a Solid Waste administrative fee, and establishing a utility right of way fee for the general fund.


This budget recognizes that City employees are not abstract line items in a budget. They are sanitation workers, public works crews, first responders, inspectors, administrative staff, and frontline employees who keep Houston moving.

We appreciate the administration's commitment to phasing in the administrative fee, making the delivery of City services more efficient, and adhering to the City's wastewater consent decree.

For these reasons, the Gulf Coast AFL-CIO supports the FY27 budget and urges City Council to approve it.

Moving forward, we encourage the City to continue prioritizing improving service delivery. The City must also explore options to ensure the increased financial burden of funding City services is not borne by working people least able to afford additional costs, but rather by the wealthiest among us who do not currently pay their fair share of the costs of providing quality public services and are in the best position to do so.

Respectfully,

Lacy Wolf, President  11/25/2026 11:22:02 CDT

Hany Khalil, Executive Director *Hany K Khalil*









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Final Audit Report

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