



May 5, 2026

Dear Mayor Whitmire,

On behalf of the West Houston Association, I write to express our support for your proposed budget for the City of Houston and the steps it takes to address near-term fiscal challenges while maintaining the delivery of essential services.

The West Houston Association is committed to the responsible growth of the Greater West Houston region. We work collaboratively to advance infrastructure-first planning, promote sound public policy, and support investments that ensure long-term sustainability and quality of life. For nearly 50 years, we have helped bring forward innovative ideas in infrastructure, public policy, and regional planning to strengthen mobility, resilience, and economic opportunity across the region.

As an organization focused on quality growth and the infrastructure that supports it, we appreciate your continued investment in infrastructure as part of this proposed budget. Maintaining and strengthening core systems such as streets, drainage, and public facilities is essential to keeping pace with the region's growth and ensuring long-term resilience and economic competitiveness.

We also appreciate the inclusion of structural changes that better align costs with the services provided. In particular, the proposal to treat solid waste as a utility, supported by a dedicated solid waste fee, represents a more sustainable and transparent funding model. Solid waste collection is a core municipal service with ongoing operational demands, and establishing a user-based structure brings Houston in line with practices already adopted by other major cities.

We also support the proposed right of way fee applied to the combined utilities system. Houston's rights of way are critical public assets that support both mobility and the delivery of essential utility services. Ensuring that their use contributes to their maintenance reflects a practical and forward-looking approach, consistent with how peer cities manage and fund these systems.

Importantly, these components of your proposed budget help close the City's projected funding gap over the next several years. This approach provides needed fiscal stability while creating time and flexibility to evaluate and implement longer-term solutions. Addressing structural financial challenges in a growing city requires thoughtful, phased strategies such as these.

As the Greater West Houston region continues to grow, maintaining reliable, high-quality municipal services remains essential to supporting residents, businesses, and continued economic development. Your proposed budget takes meaningful steps toward strengthening that foundation.

We appreciate your leadership in advancing these proposals and look forward to working with the City and Council as this budget moves forward.

Sincerely,

*Harry Masterson*

Harry Masterson  
Chairman of the Board  
West Houston Association

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