

Toolkit

Overview

Demand transparency and public insight into the development of the City of Houston's annual operating budget.

When: Held annually in the lead-up to the city's budget adoption, typically during the spring and early summer months.

Purpose:

- Learn about department-level budget proposals and anticipated service levels
- Demand community input to ask questions, and suggest adjustments
- To engage in the city's financial planning process and persuade them to make changes
- To ensure fiscal responsibility and alignment of resources with community needs and goals

[Sign-Up to Speak at Houston City Council](#) General Public Comment (Deadline to Sign Up: 24 Hours Before)

[Contact your City Mayor / Councilmembers](#)

[Refresher Training on Budget Workshops and Engaging with Local Elected Officials](#)

Schedule for this week:

- **Tuesday 5/27: 1pm - 5pm:**
Drop-by hours at WSR office, 20 North Sampson street. Come by to make calls, write, and work on budget stuff together!
- **Tuesday 5/27, 7 - 9pm:**
Mobilization town hall IN PERSON at the WSR office, 20 North Sampson Street
- **Wednesday 5/28, 9:30 AM:** City Hall public comment and last council meeting before budget vote. Call 832-393-1100 to sign up by Tuesday at 3:00 pm. Sign up is required to speak, but not to attend.
- **Wednesday 6/4, 9:00 AM:** Final vote for budget & rally at city hall

FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET WORKSHOPS & TOWN HALL DATES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

2:00 PM Five-Year
Forecast & Budget
Overview

SATURDAY, MAY 17

10:00 AM Town Hall @ Fonde
Center*

TUESDAY, MAY 13

9:00 AM Finance
10:00 AM Legal
11:00 AM General Services

MONDAY, MAY 19

9:00 AM Mayor's Office
9:30 AM City Council
10:00 AM Business Opportunity
1:30 PM Human Resources
2:30 PM Regulatory Affairs
3:30 PM Fire

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14

1:30 PM Planning
2:30 PM Housing
3:30 PM Airports

TUESDAY, MAY 20

9:00 AM Controller's Trends
Report & Office Budget
10:00 AM Libraries
11:00 AM Police

THURSDAY, MAY 15

9:00 AM Health
10:00 AM Municipal
Courts
11:00 AM Solid Waste
1:30 PM Information
Technology
2:30 PM Public Works

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

9:00 AM Public Hearing

FRIDAY, MAY 16

9:00 AM Parks
10:00 AM Neighborhoods
11:00 AM Fleet

THURSDAY, MAY 22

6:00 PM Virtual Town Hall*

*Use the QR code below to RSVP



SALLIE ALCORN
COUNCIL MEMBER
AT-LARGE, POSITION 5

MARIO CASTILLO
COUNCIL MEMBER



To submit questions for the budget, please contact atlarge5@houstontx.gov.

Give a Public Comment

Attend a City Council Meeting to give public comment at City Hall: [901 Bagby, Second Floor Houston, TX 77002](#).

City Council meetings are conducted each week on Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. and Wednesdays beginning at 9:00 a.m. Any citizen may speak before Council on Tuesdays beginning at 2:00 p.m. To reserve time to address the City Council in person (**between one and three minutes**), contact the Office of the City of Houston Secretary by 3:00 p.m. by Monday prior to the scheduled public session shown on the agenda. All Council meetings are open to the public. Your name will be called when it is your turn to speak. Bring your ID and be prepared to go through a metal detector.

Contact City Secretary's Office for Speaking / Public Comment or Email Comment:

City Secretary's Office:

832.393.1100

speakers@houstontx.gov

City Hall Annex, 900 Bagby, Room P101, Public Level

Please note that, if you sign up by phone, you will be asked for your address and phone number. **You are not required to provide this information in order to speak. In fact, we encourage you to not share your contact information, since it's printed on the speakers list for everyone to see and we don't want that falling into the wrong hands.*

Does the City of Houston City Council offer language services (i.e. translation of documents or interpretation)?

Yes, though it must be requested at least 2 weeks in advance.

Document Translation: Dustin Hodges: dustin.hodges@houstontx.gov

Real-Time Live Interpretation Public Comment / Testimony: terence.o'neill@houstontx.gov

What time will I be done giving my comment?

The agenda, which by accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, is posted for public information, though unfortunately there is no specific time of when you will be called to speak.

What if I cannot be at the Budget Workshop meetings in person?

Submit a written comment! Email a written comment to the list of city council members for it to be entered into the record and copy the Office of the City of Houston Secretary and At-Large 5.

What if I don't want to use my real name, but I still want to speak?

You can have an organization or a proxy speak on your behalf.

Contact your Mayor / City Councilmembers

Mailing Address:
City of Houston
P.O. Box 1562
Houston, TX 77251

1. To find who your council member is click [here](#). Note: John Whitmire represents all of the City of Houston only, not all of Harris County (like unincorporated areas).
2. Call *and* email their offices (you can leave a message if you call after their business hours). Contact information is as follows:

District	Name	Email	Phone
Mayor	John Whitmire	mayor@houstontx.gov	713.837.0311
A	Amy Peck	districta@houstontx.gov	832.393.3010
B	Tarsha Jackson	districtb@houstontx.gov	832.393.3009
C	Abbie Kamin	districtc@houstontx.gov	832.393.3004
D	Carolyn Evans-Shabazz	districtd@houstontx.gov	832.393.3001
E	Fred Flickinger	districte@houstontx.gov	832.393.3008
F	Tiffany D. Thomas	districtf@houstontx.gov	832.393.3002
G	Mary Nan Huffman	districtg@houstontx.gov	832.393.3007
H	Mario Castillo	districth@houstontx.gov	832.393.3003
I	Joaquin Martinez	districti@houstontx.gov	832.393.3011
J	Edward Pollard	districtj@houstontx.gov	832.393.3015
K	Martha Castex-Tatum	districtk@houstontx.gov	832.393.3016
At Large 1	Julian Ramirez	atlarge1@houstontx.gov	832.393.3014
At Large 2	Willie Davis	atlarge2@houstontx.gov	832.393.3013
At Large 3	Twila Carter	atlarge3@houstontx.gov	832.393.3005

At Large 4	Letitia Plummer	atlarge4@houstontx.gov	832.393.3012
At Large 5	Sallie Alcorn	atlarge5@houstontx.gov	832.393.3017

3. Tell them your name (full, or just your first name), that you are one of their constituents, and any other important information you feel comfortable sharing, such as your neighborhood, civic clubs you're a member of, organizations you represent, etc.