

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE CITY CONTROLLER

CHRIS HOLLINS, CITY CONTROLLER



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
Tuesday, May 27, 2025

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CONTROLLER HOLLINS RELEASES “TEN HARD TRUTHS” ABOUT PROPOSED CITY BUDGET

**New one-pager outlines financial facts
Houstonians need to know before Council votes**

HOUSTON — Ahead of Wednesday’s City Council vote on the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Budget, City Controller Chris Hollins has released a plainspoken one-page document entitled “Ten Hard Truths about Houston’s Proposed Budget.” The report cuts through political spin and lays out key facts that every Houstonian—and every member of City Council—deserves to consider before casting a vote.

“Every household knows what happens when you build a budget on shaky numbers,” said Hollins. “The city budget should be no different. This document outlines ten facts that must be considered and evaluated before the vote is made.”

While the Controller’s Office does not draft the city budget, it is responsible for reviewing, certifying, and flagging financial risks. Hollins’s goal is clear: to provide transparency and protect Houston’s financial future.

The Ten Hard Truths report highlights a range of concerns, including:

- Built-in assumptions about a property tax increase
- A 6% hike in water rates
- Unspecified “savings” with no clear plan

- Risky reliance on deficit spending to close a \$107 million gap
- Unrealistic overtime projections, which contributed to a \$70 million overspend last year
- Potential impacts to the city's credit rating

The document is part of the Controller's broader effort to ensure that Houstonians have access to real financial information—not just headlines—when it comes to how their tax dollars are spent.

“Houston deserves the truth, not spin. Our job is to break down the budget, explain what it means for you and your family, and keep this process honest and fact-based every step of the way.”

The full one-pager is available at <https://www.houstontx.gov/controller/news.html>

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ABOUT CITY OF HOUSTON CONTROLLER'S OFFICE:

Established in 1903, the [City of Houston Controller's Office](#) is the cornerstone of financial oversight and accountability for America's fourth-largest city. With a mission to uphold Houston's fiscal integrity and protect resident's tax dollars, the office oversees a broad spectrum of the City's financial operations, including its budget, investments, and debts. Committed to transparency and fiscal responsibility, the Controller's Office is key to maintaining the economic vitality of Houston, contributing to its status as a thriving metropolis for its diverse community.

ABOUT CONTROLLER CHRIS HOLLINS:

Chris Hollins, serving as Houston's City Controller since January 2024, brings a dynamic approach to City governance and financial management. With a rich background in legal practice and management consulting, coupled with innovative leadership as Harris County Clerk, Hollins is dedicated to enhancing the city's fiscal practices and community engagement. Educated at Morehouse College, Yale Law School, and Harvard Business School, Hollins's commitment to accountability and service excellence drives his mission to build a financially resilient Houston. Residing in the Third Ward with his family, his work is deeply informed by his strong community ties.

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