

STATEMENT

OFFICE OF THE CITY CONTROLLER, CHRIS HOLLINS



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Contact:

Erin Gaddis, Director of Communications and Community Engagement,

Erin.Gaddis@houstontx.gov

ICYMI: City Controller Chris Hollins Issues Reality Check on the Proposed Budget

HOUSTON (May 5, 2026) — Today, City Controller Chris Hollins responded to Mayor John Whitmire’s budget proposal for the City of Houston. He noted several troubling provisions, including the absence of transparency of the budget’s true cost to Houstonians.

“Today, Mayor Whitmire told Houstonians last year’s budget was ‘balanced through efficiency.’ He said this new budget is about ‘reality.’ And he said in this budget proposal, he’s ‘not raising fees,’” said Controller Hollins.

“None of that is true. Here’s what’s real – this budget shifts costs onto working families, hides the true price tag of city services, and puts Houston on a dangerous financial path,” he continued.

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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 residents’ 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.