

Guiding Values

Planning for the Future

We plan for a high quality of life in Houston to ensure continued opportunity and sustainable growth that balances the rights of individuals with the good of the community.

Environment

We value and will work for

- Houston to be a beautiful city
- Air and water that are plentiful and healthy
- A healthy ecosystem
- Preservation of natural greenspace
- Parks of many sizes
- Green floodplain policies
- Protection of our trees and more of them
- Technologies that are efficient and benign
- An environment for future generations that is at least as good as the environment we enjoy today

Community

We value and will work for

- Good health, with excellent, affordable, accessible health care
- Fairness, justice, opportunity, access
- A diverse society living in harmony
- The right to speak and to participate
- Help for citizens living in poverty
- Childcare, after-school programs, and recreational opportunities
- Safe shelter and adequate food for our indigent and homeless
- Respect for our new generations, who are the future, and our elderly, who possess our wisdom

Economy

We value and will work for

- Opportunity
- A prosperous city
- A climate for capital and human investment
- Innovation, research, and local entrepreneurship
- Creation of wealth
- A diversified economy
- Less dependence on oil and gas
- Our position as the global energy leader
- Being an economic competitor in the global economy

Transportation Choices

We value and will work for

- The best transportation system in America
- A high level of access for all
- An integrated, efficient, multi-modal network
- Coordinated land use and transportation planning
- Choices and safety

Neighborhoods

We value and will work for

- Healthy and beautiful neighborhoods
- A range of choices for home, work, and play
- Urban centers offering jobs, goods, and services
- Self-determination in our neighborhoods
- Choices in quality, size, and price of housing
- Affordable housing near jobs, schools, and services
- Parks near our homes
- Homeownership
- Respect for historic places

Government

We value and will work for:

- Wise, fair use of our assets
- Policies for our health, safety, and welfare
- Public service that is flexible, efficient, and excellent
- Sustainable and unobtrusive infrastructure
- Accountability and creativity from public officials
- Active regional cooperation and collaboration
- Balance of long-term and short-term visions
- A City that is safe and secure

Education

We value and will work for

- An educated citizenry and skilled workforce
- High-quality educational opportunities
- Life-long learning

Culture

We value and will work for

- A vibrant, internationally recognized center of artistic and cultural excellence

Goals

Environment

- Improve our health by improving the quality of the air
- Guard and care for our water resources
- Develop new and safe water supplies
- Clean up waterways to eliminate pollution
- Become a clean and unpolluted city
- Support technologically advanced energy alternatives
- Support sustainable buildings and developments
- Add, preserve, and restore natural areas
- Develop linear parks along bayous
- Create more parks and open space evenly distributed geographically and accessible to all citizens

Community

- Encourage healthy living and affordable quality care for all economic and age groups with adequate trauma centers and clinics
- Provide affordable quality day care to children
- Encourage drug counseling and other drug prevention intervention in schools
- Facilitate the transition process for intermediate and junior high students living in poverty
- Assist the homeless
- Provide opportunities to earn a living wage
- Respect diversity, including not limited to race, ethnicity, language, gender, sexual preference, religion, and socio-economic status
- Become an informed and empowered citizenry able to access information and influence government decisions
- Support seniors with affordable housing, tax exemptions, healthcare, transportation, park facilities and activities, environmental awareness about senior housing areas, and police presence in senior communities

Economy

- Become a sophisticated, vibrant, information technology-driven city with a highly skilled workforce
- Promote a diversified business community attractive to international interests
- Help small businesses thrive in local neighborhoods.
- Provide increased employment training opportunities that address a wide range of occupations and industries
- Be sensitive to culture and language inside and outside the work place including in schools

Transportation

- Create a transit system that is clean, fast, efficient, high frequency, comfortable, accessible, fiscally responsible, aesthetically pleasing, and well routed

- Maintain and improve a well built, coordinated, and accessible network of expressways, roads, streets, and sidewalks integrated with other modes of transportation
- Improve and expand pedestrian and bicyclist facilities and paths to provide alternative mobility options, ensure safety, and connect neighborhoods and centers
- Link transportation and land use planning

Neighborhoods

- Support and preserve beautiful neighborhoods
- Protect and strengthen neighborhood identity and values through sensible application of newly created laws, regulations, programs, and incentives.
- Promote and preserve older neighborhoods, and where appropriate redevelop them into better places
- Create a master plan for growth that fosters dense, walkable, mixed-use urban centers at all scales surrounded by affordable, accessible, diverse neighborhoods
- Support housing for all in proximity to parks, schools, shops, police services, and places of work
- Repair visual blight and adopt regulations to prevent it
- Provide libraries, parks, and recreational facilities within walking distance of every household
- Improve neighborhood infrastructure
- Preserve historic areas

Government

- Reduce costs and become more accountable
- Give citizens an active voice in policy making
- Deliver public services equally to all areas of the City, including recycling, street cleanup, lighting, curbs and gutters, and mosquito control
- Develop secure public and private places and adequate laws for public protection from all offenses
- Enforce the laws extensively and fairly
- Collaborate and coordinate in the region

Education

- Provide high-quality bilingual public education in safe schools with highly trained teachers and small classes
- Help immigrants learn how our government works so they can access jobs, education opportunities, and the justice system on par with non-immigrants

Culture

- Support a vital and diverse art community
- Have affordable, accessible arts centers and programs