

Houston Voter News

What you need to know before you vote

VOTE
MAY
6



Only voters can stop transfer of billions of property tax dollars out of HISD

The Houston Independent School District Board of Education voted to call an emergency election on May 6, to ask voters to authorize purchasing attendance credits from the state rather than face permanent detachment of valuable commercial property.

The state now considers HISD property-wealthy and under the current school funding laws, often called Robin Hood, voters must choose how the district will pay.

Voters must either approve the “purchase of attendance credits” which allows HISD to write a check for the amount, or Houston’s most valuable commercial property will be permanently detached and the property taxes will benefit another district. Whether voters support yes or no, HISD will have to pay in accordance with state law. Voting

for proposition 1 is a better option for Houstonians and HISD kids.

Previously, HISD’s recapture obligation was originally estimated at \$162 million. Earlier this year the Texas Education Agency announced it would recognize half of the local homestead exemption and reduced the recapture obligation to \$77.5 million or the permanent removal of \$8 billion dollars’ worth of commercial properties from HISD’s tax roll.

HISD’s Board Trustees Wanda Adams, Rhonda Skillern-Jones, Anna Eastman, Mike Lunceford, and Holly Maria Flynn Vilaseca voted to approve the election and give taxpayers a voice in how HISD will make the payment under current state law. Trustees Diana Dávila, Jolanda Jones, and Manuel Rodriguez voted against the election. If the measure fails, it will force HISD into detachment. Trustee Anne Sung abstained from voting.

Prop 1, if passed, would immediately stop the permanent detachment of the Galleria

Mall (the largest mall in Texas), Greenway Plaza, the iconic downtown towers and buildings on Post Oak Blvd., and allow the district to send lower recapture payments to the state than those earlier projected. If the measure fails, detachment would begin in July of 2017, and the taxes from these properties would never return to HISD.

Business experts are warning that taxpayers will take a long term financial hit if Prop 1 fails. “By removing these properties, remaining homeowners and businesses will have to pay more to make up the difference,” said Bob Harvey, President of the Greater Houston Partnership.

Education Experts are also deeply concerned about HISD’s future if Prop 1 fails. “Permanently detaching HISD’s most valuable business properties will ultimately result in drastic budget cuts and could force more neighborhood schools to close,” said Greater Houston Partnership Public Policy Counsel Jesse Ayala.

Local leaders Come Together to Urge a Vote For Prop 1



“Permanently removing the most valuable business properties from HISD’s tax base is bad policy and will force homeowners to bear a disproportionate share of school property taxes. Help me stop this by voting for HISD Prop 1.”

– County Judge
Ed Emmett



“By voting for Prop 1 we can stop the permanent and devastating impact of transferring billions of dollars out of HISD and trapping our kids in failing schools. Which is why every school district faced with this issue has chosen to write the check.”

– State Representative
Harold Dutton



“If you vote no, you are essentially voting yourself a \$32 million tax increase.”

– State Senator Paul
Bettencourt



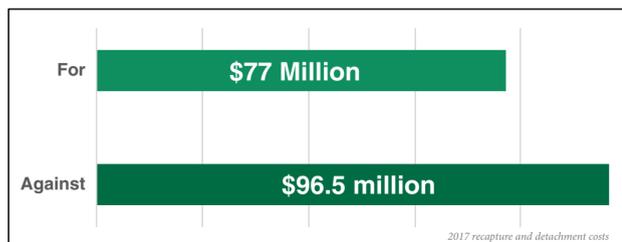
“Voting yes will keep more money in Houston’s schools while giving our leaders in Austin the leverage to change our state’s broken school funding system.”

– Houston Mayor
Pro Tempore
Ellen Cohen

Pol. Adv. Pd for by Houston Taxpayers for Quality
Education, Welcome Wilson, Sr., Treasurer.
4708 Eigel St.
Houston, TX 77007

A CLEAR CHOICE
Vote For H.I.S.D. Prop 1

The Cost of Your Vote



Voting for Prop 1 saves HISD and Taxpayers \$19.5 million.



A Vote FOR Prop 1 is Good For Everyone

By Ryan M. Leach, Central Houston, Inc.

Houston Independent School District voters will determine whether HISD will permanently lose billions of dollars in taxable commercial property value through a process involving detachment and annexation. Proposition 1 will be on the ballot on May 6. (Early Voting starts April 24-May 2) and the choice is clear. A vote for Prop 1 will make sure that value stays in HISD and that those dollars go to the kids in our neighborhood schools.

The facts are clear: HISD has become a property wealthy school district according to state law. That same law requires that property wealthy districts, like HISD, contribute to help fund property poor districts. The voters must decide how to pay that bill. The law may

not be fair, but fairness is not what we are voting on with Proposition 1.

Central Houston Inc. is supporting Prop 1 because we know the buildings that compose the downtown skyline not only inspire our future leaders, they provide the critical funding our schools need. Removing the education tax dollars from these skyscrapers hurts all school children and raises taxes for everyone.

Most importantly, detachment is permanent. There is no provision in state law that would allow HISD to get these properties back. Houstonians must vote FOR Prop 1 on May 6 and make sure HISD's most valuable taxable commercial properties continue to help fund HISD.

Fighting the Wrong Fight

Every election is about the future. This election will decide the future of HISD and how it will comply with the current school financing law. Experts across Texas agree that voting for Prop 1 will keep Houston in charge and costs less.

A few of HISD Trustees, lead by Jolanda Jones, are openly opposing a "yes" vote because they want the legislature to overhaul school financing. While many believe the state's school financing system

should be overhauled, that is not what this election is about.

Any opposition to Prop 1, based solely on changing the current way the state equalizes school funding is short sighted, risky, and jeopardizes every child that attends HISD schools. This election is asking voters how they want HISD to comply with the current law, not if voters like the current law. This issue is so important that a bi-partisan group of business, community and education leaders have come together in the interest of Houston students and taxpayers.

Working together, we can pass Prop 1 and keep us in charge.

Community Leaders and Groups Supporting HISD

County Judge Ed Emmett
 State Senator Paul Bettencourt
 State Representative Alma Allen
 State Representative Jim Murphy
 State Representative Sarah Davis
 State Representative Jarvis Johnson
 State Representative Harold Dutton, Jr.
 State Representative Shawn Thierry
 HISD Board President Wanda Adams

HISD Board Member Mike Lunceford
 HISD Board Member Rhonda Skillern-Jones
 HISD Board Member Anna Eastman
 HISD Board Member Holly Maria Flynn Vilaseca



Business Leaders Urge Voters to Keep Our Community Together

Business and community leaders from both sides of the aisle are asking voters to support Prop 1, so they can continue to help fund Houston's Public Schools and our future leaders.



The simple-truth, voting for Prop 1 keeps the HISD community together and allows the property taxes from businesses like ours to help play an important part in funding public education in Houston. We want the tax money from H-E-B stores in HISD funding public schools in HISD.

– Scott McClelland,
 President, H-E-B Grocery Stores
 Houston Division



Voting For Prop 1 is the only Choice

by: State Representative Jim Murphy

On May 6, Houston Independent School District (HISD) voters get a do-over, with the chance to keep \$8 billion in commercial property on the tax rolls, for the benefit of HISD schools and HISD schoolchildren, by voting for Proposition One.



How did we get here, and why should voters change their vote?

In November, voters angry that state school funding formulas declared HISD property-wealthy revolted against sending an estimated \$162 million in recapture funding to the state. It made sense at the time: how can we send local dollars to

benefit kids from another district when the majority of our students qualify for free-and-reduced lunch? But not many voters understood that it was a not a question of if HISD would pay recapture, only a question of how.

The consequences of that vote have finally come to light, and the remedy is worse than the original ailment. Unless voters approve Prop One on May 6, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) will permanently "detach" \$8 billion in commercial property from HISD tax rolls. This will include properties like the Galleria, Greenway Plaza and Chase Tower. Hundreds of millions of dollars in property tax revenue collected on some of Houston's priciest commercial property will no longer be used to educate Houston schoolchildren. It will be sent to another school district, to educate children who don't live in HISD. And this detachment is permanent because there is no provision in current law to bring detached property back onto the tax rolls.

The net effect of detachment will be a tax increase for remaining HISD property owners. In previous elections voters passed bonds that took into consideration the

entire property tax base, and the revenue needed to pay our existing \$2 billion in bonds will come from a newly reduced tax base, meaning more will be charged to every taxpayer.

For the businesses that occupy the \$8 billion in commercial property there will also be a tax increase, because their property will be taxed at a rate that is nine percent higher than the current HISD rate. The fact is, everyone currently in HISD will pay more if Prop One fails. That's why a bipartisan coalition of leaders are backing passage of Proposition One. We want to keep revenue from HISD properties in HISD, to the benefit of local schoolchildren.

When we voted last November, keeping recapture dollars away from the state seemed like a sensible idea. But there's a reason no district had chosen this nuclear option before: because the cost of permanent detachment of commercially viable properties is too high a price to pay.

I hope all HISD voters will join me in supporting Prop One on May 6.

Vote for Prop 1

by State Representative Alma Allen

Dozens of our community's landmark buildings risk being removed from HISD tax rolls. Under detachment and annexation, billions of dollars of property taxes from the Galleria, Greenway Plaza, and a number of downtown skyscrapers will be permanently transferred away from HISD.

It gets even worse for residential property tax payers. Within a few years, HISD stands to lose all its commercial property, a whopping 44% of its entire tax base. Under this scenario, residential properties – both single and multi-family housing – will be forced to shoulder a disproportionate share of HISD's operating costs and debt obligations.

Increased taxes are not the only problem detachment brings. Once another school district absorbs all the property it can under the law, detached commercial property starts being assigned to other districts, all with their own tax rates. Eventually our community could become an unpredictable patchwork of jurisdictions and varying tax rates, threatening economic growth.



All of this is triggered by Texas' flawed school finance structure. Even though more than three-quarters of HISD's kids are free or reduced lunch-qualified, as a property-rich district, HISD is required to pay a "recapture" obligation to the state. The payment options are to write a check to the state to "purchase attendance credits" or see the District's most valuable commercial property detached and sent to a district with less property wealth.

Sending local revenues for recapture payments by purchasing attendance credits requires voter approval. An emergency election for this purpose has been called for May 6, 2017. You may remember that this issue was at the bottom of the November 2016 General election ballot and was

defeated by voters. Since the first election, HISD has been working in Austin and has seen its recapture obligation reduced from \$162 million at the time of the November election to \$77.5 million now.

In that election, many people voted "no" to send a message to the Legislature to fix school finance. And although the Texas House has taken the first steps to address reforming the system, our community faces this critical decision now. On May 6, that means voting FOR Prop 1. We must ensure our community stays together with businesses and residents continuing to share a stake in our kids' future.

Detachment costs everyone in our community more than paying the recapture obligation by writing a check. HISD loses \$19 million more if the property is detached. Plus detachment is permanent, meaning HISD would forever lose the ability to tax the detached property.

If we fail, we run the risk of trapping kids in underfunded schools while taxpayers pay more and higher property taxes.

May 6 offers a rare second opportunity to stop detachment and secure a better future for our entire community.

Please join me by voting FOR Prop 1 on May 6th.

Important Answers to Your Questions

What are the Choices on May 6?

- The choices are dictated by state law.
- Voters will either instruct HISD to:
 - 1) purchase attendance credits, or
 - 2) ask the state to remove high-value property located within HISD.
- Voting FOR Prop 1 enables HISD to purchase attendance credits, which reduces wealth status. A FOR vote is best for students, the school district, and taxpayers that support the school district because it preserves the greatest amount of resources.
- Voting NO shifts the power to the TEA, the state agency that oversees public schools. Under current law, TEA will remove valuable property from HISD's tax base and reassign it to another school district FOREVER.

How Will It Affect Me?

- This election will affect everyone: students, teachers, the district, and taxpayers.
- There is a strong link between a school district and the taxpayers that support the school district.
- Even if you rent your apartment and you don't have children in HISD, the costs of running the largest school district in the state are part of your expenses.
- HISD currently has 215,000 students, which exceeds the enrollment of every other school district in the state by at least 55,000 students.
- Voting FOR Prop 1 will reduce the district's financial obligation under the state's Robin Hood laws and keep more money available to educate children.



Vote Yes!

HOUSTON ISD PROP 1

Election Day - May 6

Pol. Adv. Pd for by Houston Taxpayers for Quality Education,
Welcome Wilson, Sr., Treasurer.

Early Vote Times and Locations

May 6, 2017 Joint Election Early Voting Schedule

Horario para Votar Temprano en la Elección Conjunta del 6 de mayo de 2017

Lịch Trình Bầu Cử Sớm cho Cuộc Bầu Cử Kết Hợp ngày 6 tháng 5, 2017

2017年5月6日聯合選舉 - 提前投票日程表

City of Humble, City of Pasadena, Houston Independent School District, Humble Independent School District, Northgate Crossing Municipal Utility District 2, Northwest Harris County Municipal Utility District 28, Oakmont Public Utility District, Harris County Water Control & Improvement District 91.

Ciudad de Humble, Ciudad de Pasadena, Distrito Escolar Independiente de Houston, Distrito Escolar Independiente de Humble, Distrito de Servicios Públicos Municipales Nro. 2 de Northgate Crossing, Distrito de Servicios Públicos Municipales Nro. 28 del Noroeste del Condado de Harris, Distrito de Servicios Públicos de Oakmont, Distrito de Control y Mejoras de Agua Nro. 91 del Condado de Harris.

Thành Phố Humble, Thành Phố Pasadena, Khu Học Chánh Houston, Khu Học Chánh Humble, Cơ Quan Tiện Ích Thành Phố Northgate Crossing Số 2, Cơ Quan Tiện Ích Thành Phố Vùng Tây Bắc Quận Harris Số 28, Cơ Quan Tiện Ích Công Cộng Oakmont, Cơ Quan Kiểm Soát và Cải Tiến Nguồn Nước Số 91 Quận Harris.

Humble 市, Pasadena 市, Houston 獨立學區, Humble 獨立學區, Northgate Crossing 第 2 號市政公用事業區, Harris 縣西北區第 28 號市政公用事業區, Oakmont 公用事業區, Harris 縣水務管理與改善區第 91 區。

Early Voting Hours of Operation

April 24 - April 28: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
April 29: 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
April 30: 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
May 1 - May 2: 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Horas de Funcionamiento

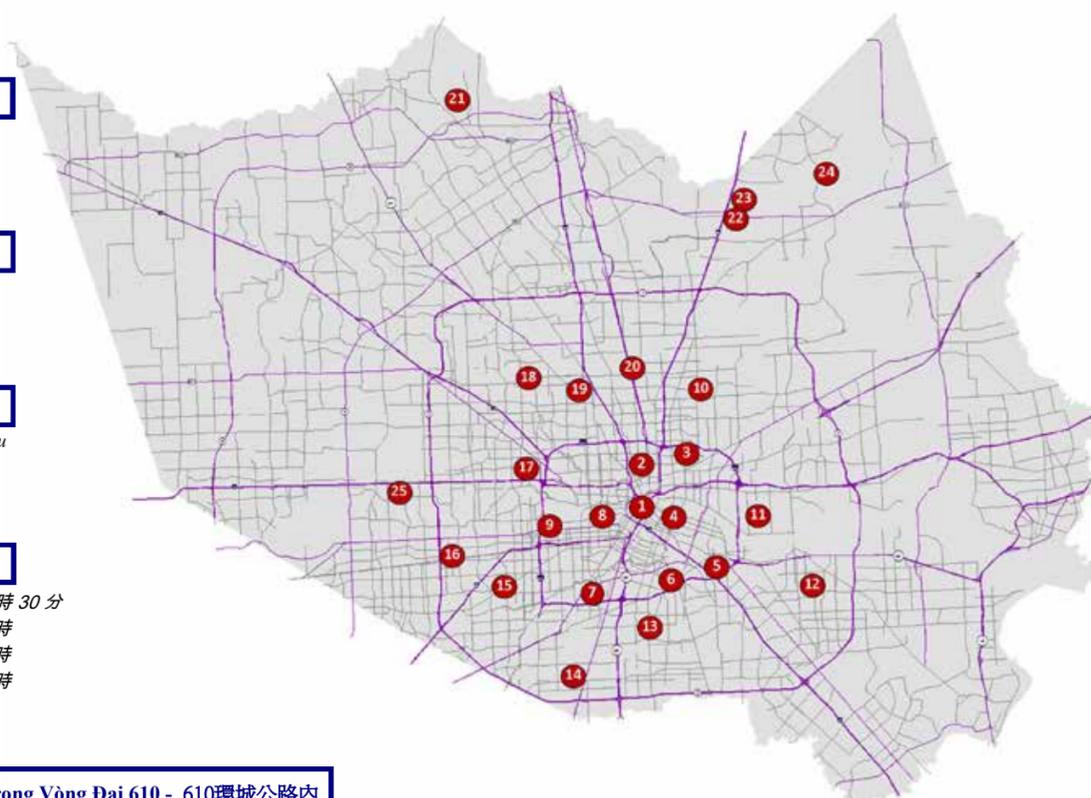
24 de abril - 28 de abril: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
29 de abril: 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
30 de abril: 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
1 de mayo - 2 de mayo: 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Giờ Mở Cửa Bầu Cử Sớm

Ngày 24 Tháng 4 - Ngày 28 Tháng 4: 8:00 sáng - 4:30 chiều
Ngày 29 Tháng 4: 7:00 sáng - 7:00 tối
Ngày 30 Tháng 4: 1:00 trưa - 6:00 tối
Ngày 1 Tháng 5 - Ngày 2 Tháng 5: 7:00 sáng - 7:00 tối

提前投票日期及時間

4月24日 - 4月28日: 上午8時 - 下午4時30分
4月29日: 上午7時 - 晚上7時
4月30日: 下午1時 - 晚上6時
5月1日 - 5月2日: 上午7時 - 晚上7時



Inside Loop 610 - Adentro del Autopista 610 - Trong Vòng Đại 610 - 610環城公路內

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|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Main Office: | Harris County Administration Building
1001 Preston Street, 4th Floor, Houston, 77002 |
| 2. Moody Park: | Moody Park Community Center
3725 Fulton Street, Houston, 77009 |
| 3. Kashmere: | Kashmere Multi-Service Center
4802 Lockwood Drive, Houston, 77026 |
| 4. Downtown-East: | Ripley House Neighborhood Center
4410 Navigation Boulevard, Houston, 77011 |
| 5. Southeast Houston: | H.C.C.S. Southeast College
6960 Rustic Street, Parking Garage, Houston, 77087 |
| 6. Palm Center: | Justice of the Peace Entry
5300 Griggs Road, Houston, 77021 |
| 7. Astrodome Area: | Fiesta Mart
8130 Kirby Drive, Houston, 77054 |
| 8. Near Town: | Metropolitan Multi-Service Center
1475 W. Gray Street, Houston, 77019 |
| 9. Galleria: | Harris County Public Health
2223 West Loop South Fwy, 1 st Floor, Houston, 77027 |

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|---------------------|---|
| 16. Near West Side: | Tracy Gee Community Center
3599 Westcenter Drive, Houston, 77042
(One block East of Sam Houston Tollway) |
| 17. Spring Branch: | Trini Mendenhall Community Center
1414 Wirt Road, Houston, 77055 |
| 18. Victory Center: | Lone Star College - Victory Center
4141 Victory Drive, Houston, 77088 |
| 19. Acres Homes: | Acres Homes Multi-Service Center
6719 West Montgomery Road, Houston, 77091 |
| 20. North: | Hardy Senior Center
11901 West Hardy Road, Houston, 77076 |

Outside Beltway 8 - Afuera de la carretera 8 - Ngoài Vòng Đại 8 - 8號環城公路外

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|------------------------|--|
| 10. Northeast Houston: | Northeast Multi-Service Center
9720 Spaulding Street, Building #4, Houston, 77016 |
| 11. Galena Park: | Alvin D. Baggett Community Center
1302 Keene Street, Galena Park, 77547 |
| 12. Pasadena: | Pasadena City Hall
1211 Southmore Avenue, Pasadena, 77502 |
| 13. Sunnyside: | Sunnyside Multi-Purpose Center
9314 Cullen Boulevard, Houston, 77051 |
| 14. South Houston: | Hiram Clarke Multi-Service Center
3810 West Fuqua Street, Houston, 77045 |
| 15. SW. Houston: | Bayland Park Community Center
6400 Bissonnet Street (near Hillcroft), Houston, 77074 |

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 21. Far North: | Lone Star College - Creekside Center
8747 West New Harmony Trail, Tomball, 77375 |
| 22. Humble: | Humble City Hall/Council Chamber
114 W. Higgins Street, Humble, 77338 |
| 23. Humble ISD: | Humble ISD Administration Building
20200 Eastway Village Drive, Humble, 77338 |
| 24. Kingwood: | Humble ISD Instructional Support Center
4810 Magnolia Cove Drive, Kingwood, 77345 |
| 25. West Houston: | Nottingham Park
926 Country Place Drive, Houston, 77079 |



STAN STANART

Harris County Clerk
Secretario del Condado de Harris
Giám Đốc Nha Hành Chánh Quận Harris
Harris 縣行政書記官

For more information - Para mas información - Để biết thêm chi tiết - 詳情請洽:

www.HarrisVotes.com - 713.755.6965

HARRIS COUNTY - CONDADO DE HARRIS - QUẬN HARRIS - HARRIS 縣