



2023 EASTWOOD CANDIDATE FORUM

BY CLAY DIPPEL, ECA VICE PRESIDENT (EASTWOOD)

This November 7th, voters in the city of Houston will choose a new Mayor and weigh in on the make-up of Houston's city council. Incumbent Mayor Sylvester Turner is term-limited and cannot seek re-election to a third term. District I councilman Robert Gallegos is also term-limited as councilman, so a new member will be elected to represent greater Eastwood for the District I position.

During the May 1st general membership meeting, the Train Committee hosted a candidate forum designed to ask candidates about issues specific to the East End, such as train congestion and noise, crime, city spending, infrastructure, and more. We saw this as an opportunity for candidates to introduce themselves and share with residents about their platforms.

By holding the forum early in the election season we had a large turnout of candidates. The committee invited anyone running for mayor, at-large city council (who represent the whole of the city of Houston) or District I (The area that represents Eastwood) to participate.

For the mayor's race, we hosted Amanda Edwards, Lee Kaplan, Robert Gallegos, and Gilbert Garcia.

For city council, we welcomed:

At-large 1: Casey Curry, Leah Wolfthal, and Conchita Reyes

At-large 2: Holly Flynn Vilaseca, Nick Hellyar, and Obes Nwabara

At-large 3: James Joseph

At-large 4: John Branch

At-large 5: Sallie Alcorn

District I: Joaquin Martinez (could not attend because of an unexpected family emergency)

District H: Cynthia Reyes-Revilla (running to represent a district adjacent to ECA boundaries)

We offered each candidate free time to discuss their campaign and qualifications, asked them to weigh in on solutions to challenges facing our neighborhood, and offered a 'lighting round' to quickly cover many topics. During this portion, we offered candidates a 'yes' and 'no' sign, with the option not to weigh in if the issue was either too dependent on conditions, or if they could not respond.

(continued on pg. 2)

WWW.EASTWOODCIVICASSOCIATION.ORG • INFO@EASTWOODCIVICASSOCIATION.ORG

CALENDAR

- 8/7 6:30 - 7:30 pm: General Membership meeting (Cape Center/Zoom)
- 9/11 6:30 - 7:30 pm: General Membership meeting (Cape Center/Zoom)
- 10/3 National Night Out - Park Dr. Esplanade
- 10/21 Eastwood Historic Home Tour
- 10/22 Eastwood Historic Home Tour
- 11/6 6:30 - 7:30 pm: General Membership meeting (Cape Center/Zoom)
- 12/4 6:30 - 7:30 pm: General Membership meeting (Cape Center/Zoom)




**25TH ANNUAL
HISTORIC HOME TOUR**

OCTOBER 21-22, 2023

EastwoodCivicAssociation.org

2023 EASTWOOD CANDIDATE FORUM

(cont. from pg. 1)

The following is a breakdown of the council candidates' responses:

-- An abstain vote is marked below with a (X) in the table --

Question:	Curry	Wolfthall	Reyes	Flynn Vilaseca	Hellyar	Nwabara	Joseph	Branch	Alcorn	Reyes-Revilla
Will you endorse Fair for Houston campaign to reform the voting structure of H-GAC?	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	(X)	YES
A quiet zone for East End II, was estimated to cost \$3.64 million, and was brought to city council in June 2022 by District I Council Member. If it was brought to council today as a Capital Investment Project, would you vote for it?"	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Do you support the METRO University BRT Line in its current form?	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	(X)	NO	YES	YES	YES
In general, do you support the construction of high comfort bike lanes in the city right of way?	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	(X)	YES	NO	YES	(X)
Do you support the concept of Neighborhood Conservation Districts?	YES	(X)	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES
Do you believe TxDOT's current plan for I-45 Expansion is an acceptable way forward?	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Is the City's use of Shot Spotter technology an efficient use of resources?	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
Do you think Houston should charge a fee for residential garbage collection service?	(X)	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	(X)
Would you support a City Charter Amendment that allows individual Council Members to have more agenda-setting authority?	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Will you commit to coming back to our Civic Association meetings in the future?	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

Important election-related dates:

- Last day to register to vote: Tuesday, Oct. 10th
- Last day to apply for mail-in-ballot: Friday, Oct. 27th
- Early voting: Monday, Oct. 23 - Friday, Nov. 3rd
- Election Day: Tuesday, Nov. 7th

You can learn more about polling places, read a sample ballot, or find out more about types of identification needed at the polls at HarrisVotes.com.

We extend our thanks to all of the candidates who took time to participate in the 2023 candidate forum and to all of our neighbors who came out to the Cape Center to learn more. We welcome each of our neighbors to be engaged in local elections this fall.



Video of the candidates' responses is posted to the ECA's YouTube account. As part of a technical oversight, our video of the event did not capture the mayoral responses, which is why they are not recorded.

There is still time for new candidates to register to run for office, and not all candidates for each open position participated in the ECA forum. Candidates are always able to share updates during regularly scheduled general membership meetings.

Access all of the Eastwood Civic Association online spaces through our Linktree reference landing page. <https://linktr.ee/eastwoodcivicassociation>