

Results of the Commissioners Court Meeting of 09-09-25
All agenda items approved as presented with the following exceptions:
Harris County Commissioners Court
Exceptions to September 9, 2025 Agenda

Page	Item	Department	Exception
2	1	County Administration	<p>To establish the Salary Grievance Committee pursuant to Local Government Code Section 152.014(a)(1).</p> <p>*****</p> <p>To adopt and enter into the minutes the randomized list of individuals eligible to serve as public members as provided by the County Clerk and the District Clerk.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>To select in the order of the randomized list provided by the Clerks the number of public members required to compose the Grievance Committee and forty alternates.</p>
2	2	Management and Budget	<p>That Commissioners Court adopt the run of show for today's budget discussions as outlined by the Office of Management and Budget yesterday, September 8th.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>To set a public hearing on September 18, 2025 at 10:00 A.M. to consider the Port of Houston Authority the proposed 2025 tax rate of \$100 of taxable value of \$0.00590 for debt service, and to direct the Office of Management and Budget, the Tax Assessor-Collector, and other relevant departments to execute and publish all related notices as required by applicable law.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>To set a public hearing on September 18, 2025 at 10:00 A.M. to consider for Harris County Flood Control District the proposed 2025 tax rates per \$100 of taxable value of up to \$0.03826 for maintenance and operations and \$0.0114 for debt service, for a total tax rate of up to \$0.04966, which is the voter approval rate; and to direct the Office of Management and Budget, the Tax Assessor-Collector, and other relevant departments to execute and publish all related notices as required by applicable law.</p> <p>*****</p>

2	2	Management and Budget	<p>To set a public hearing on September 18, 2025 at 10:00 A.M. to consider for Harris County Flood Control District the proposed FY2026 budget as amended and to direct the Office of Management and Budget, OCA, and all the relevant departments to execute and publish all related notices and direct the Office of Management and Budget to file the Harris County Flood Control District proposed FY2026 budget as amended with the County Clerk and County Auditor.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>To set a public hearing on September 18, 2025 at 10:00 A.M. to consider for Harris County Hospital District d/b/a Harris Health the proposed 2025 tax rates per \$100 of taxable value of \$0.17876 for maintenance and operations and \$0.00885 for debt service, for a total tax rate of \$0.18761, which is the voter approval rate; and to direct the Office of Management and Budget, the Tax Assessor Collector, and other relevant departments to execute and publish all related notices as required by applicable law.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>For Public Health to work with Management and Budget (OMB) to transfer \$4,000,000 of eligible expenses to Harris Health. This transfer of costs would be used to restore the Harris County Public Health offsets and/or fund enhancements at the discretion of the Harris County Public Health Director and OMB in the currently proposed FY26 budget.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>To set a public hearing on September 18, 2025 at 10:00 A.M. to consider for Harris County Hospital District d/b/a Harris Health the proposed FY2026 budget as amended and to direct the Office of Management and Budget, OCA, and all relevant departments to execute and publish all related notices and direct the Office of Management and Budget to file the Harris County Hospital District d/b/a Harris Health proposed FY2026 budget as amended with the County Clerk and County Auditor.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Failed motion to stagger law enforcement pay raises over Fiscal Year 2025-2026 for a total cost of \$75,000,000, or 75% of the costs allocated in the proposed FY26 Budget Book.</p> <p>*****</p>
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2	2	Management and Budget	<p>Failed motion to reduce the \$7.5 million from the ARPA Portfolio in addition to the \$8.9 million moved for on August 14th, for a total of \$16.4 million in cuts to preserve \$4.3 million and that would go to \$1.15 million for the SHINE Facility Fund, \$1.47 million for the Accessible Child Care Training Supports (ACCTS), \$500K for the Single Family Rehab for Low-Income Homeowners, \$754K for Lead Abatement, and \$500K for Re-Entry Mini Grants.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>That Commissioners Court accept an additional \$3 million offset from the Office of the County Engineer. OCE will work with OMB to confirm those offsets.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>To transfer \$4.5 million in eligible expenses to Fund 2417.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>That Commissioners Court accept an additional \$2 million offset from Universal Services. Universal Services will work with OMB to confirm those offsets.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>To direct OMB to include in the proposed budget the additional \$812,621.10 in ARPA reallocation recommended by the Steering Committee comprised of the five court offices.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>To instruct Universal Services to conduct a comprehensive assessment of all active software licenses to verify compliance, ensure efficient use, and identify and eliminate unused licenses.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Failed motion to delay implementation of the law enforcement raises until Fiscal Year 2027 contingent on voter approval in the November 2026 General Election.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Failed motion to remove the exemption for Court Offices from the proposed hiring freeze. The proposed hiring freeze includes exemption for Court Offices effectively allowing Court Offices to continue to hire while departments face serious hiring freezes. This motion seeks to hold Court offices to the same standards we're holding out departments to.</p> <p>*****</p>
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2	2	Management and Budget	<p>Failed motion to not contribute \$25 million so we don't have to do the hiring freeze.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>To advance to the next round the restoration of the Resources for Children and Adults.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>To advance to the next round \$2.5 million to fund the Emergency Response Dockets with a focus on lower-level felonies and jail cases.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>To advance to the next round to restore \$2.5 million to the District Attorney's Office.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Failed motion to advance to the next round \$2.5 million to restore funding to Maternal and Child Health.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Failed motion to advance \$1.7 million to Wastewater testing to allow early visibility into COVID, RSV, flu, measles, H5N1, and other emerging diseases.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Failed motion to advance \$1.6 million to the Chronic Disease Prevention Program</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Failed motion to advance \$1.4 million for the Nuisance Abatement Program.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>To advance \$1 million to support the implementation of SB 9.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Failed motion to advance \$1 million to expand the Holistic Assistance Response Teams.</p> <p>*****</p>
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2	2	Management and Budget	<p>To advance \$944,008 restoring the County Clerk to current level of service.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>To advance \$920,810 for the Service Enhancements for the Children’s Assessment Center.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>To advance \$900,000 for the Harris County Resources for Children and Adults.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>To advance the JP salary increase of 30%, \$696,000.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>To advance \$580,000 for a pilot program within the Tax Assessor-Collector’s Office to convert temp staff to permanent positions.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>To advance \$300,000 to restore the Public Library.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>To move as a slate:</p> <p>Fund the Emergency Response Dockets, re-tooled as the Emerging Issues Docket, with a focus on lower-level felonies and jail cases to help reduce the jail population, in the amount of \$2.6 million.</p> <p>\$2,569,973</p> <p>That Commissioners Court approve the restoration of \$2,500,000 to the District Attorney’s Office in the FY26 budget. This restoration ensures that the District Attorney’s Office maintains funding for diversion, intake, and other critical services as approved by Court earlier this year.</p> <p>\$2,500,000</p> <p>That Commissioners Court approve the restoration of \$500,000 to the Institute of Forensic Sciences in the FY26 budget. This restoration will ensure the Institute has the resources necessary to maintain accreditation, invest in essential equipment, and continue delivering timely forensic services that are vital to our justice system and public safety.</p>
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2	2	Management and Budget	<p>That Commissioner's Court allocate \$1,170,000 to the Institute of Forensic Sciences to restore lost grant funding for the federal DNA Backlog Reduction Grant.</p> <p>\$1,670,000</p> <p>To allocate a \$1 million reserve to support the implementation of SB 9. This reserve is based on a preliminary annualized cost estimate of approximately \$872,000, which assumes weekend and holiday coverage by visiting judges and includes overtime for the District Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Pretrial Services, and the Clerk's Office.</p> <p>\$1,000,000</p> <p>Restore County Clerk to CLS.</p> <p>\$944,008</p> <p>Grant requested service enhancements for Children's Assessment Center.</p> <p>\$920,810</p> <p>JP Salary Increase of 30% to \$189K/judge, incremental impact is \$696K.</p> <p>\$695,885</p> <p>Grant service enhancement for the pilot program of converting temp staff to permanent positions.</p> <p>\$580,904</p> <p>That Commissioners Court approve the restoration of \$500,000 to Harris County Resources for Children and Adults in the FY26 budget, for the critical work they do to support at-risk youth and adults.</p> <p>\$500,000</p> <p>That Commissioners Court approve the restoration of \$300,000 to the Harris County Public Library budget in FY26. This will fully restore cuts to library circulation materials, ensuring residents continue to have full access to the books and resources they rely on.</p> <p>\$300,000</p> <p>*****</p>
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2	2	Management and Budget	<p>To pass the Hiring Freeze SOP with all the exemptions included with these three additional ones: exempting HART, RISE, and Purchasing.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>To adopt the policy as amended.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>To direct Universal Services to assess technology across the County including all departments that utilize the County's technology infrastructure. Universal Services will propose a plan focused on consolidation of technology services across the County that is within the core competency of Universal Services including network, data center, licensing, applications, and other proprietary hardware and software solutions. The plan will come back to Commissioners Court on December 11, 2025.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>To direct Universal Services to work directly with the Purchasing Office to evaluate all technology purchases that interact with the County network regardless of the cost, including but not limited to P-Card purchases and any other form of technology purchases across the County. Universal Services will provide an audit report on a quarterly basis to the Commissioners Court starting January of 2026.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>To direct OMB to present options in the FY26 Budget for increasing each elected constable's salary to \$260,000 that will be coming out of their existing budgets.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Failed motion to provide a \$82,000 salary increase to the County Attorney, County Clerk, District Attorney, District Clerk, Tax Assessor-Collector, and the Treasurer.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>To direct HRT to send and publish notices and take other action as required under applicable law.</p> <p>*****</p>
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2	2	Management and Budget	<p>To set a public hearing on September 24, 2025 at 10:00 A.M., or at the next earliest date that can be properly noticed in accordance with applicable law, to consider the Harris County proposed FY2026 Budget as amended, and to direct the Office of Management and Budget, Office of County Administration, and all relevant departments to execute and publish all related notices.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>To have the Office of Management and Budget load the Budget into the PeopleSoft system.</p>
2	8	County Engineer	<p>To approve as presented the Office of County Engineer's Year 1 (FY26) fee schedule, beginning October 1, 2025. Funds collected will go back to the Office of County Engineering to cover permitted expenses, including the cost of staffing and continued improvement of operations and system updates; to direct the Office of County Engineering to report back to Commissioners Court by November 13, 2025 with a plan for using artificial intelligence and other software improvements to make the permitting process faster, more accurate, and easier for the public to use; to direct OCE to return to Commissioners Court in one year for discussion and possible action on a fee schedule adjustment for FY27; to direct OCE to establish a quarterly working group including representatives from all five court offices, relevant County departments, and external stakeholder groups to identify process improvements, performance benchmarks, and KPIs to continuously improve efficiency, transparency, and accountability in platting and permitting operations; to direct OCE, supported by other relevant County departments including Harris County Fire Marshal, Flood Control District, and Harris County Public Health, to create a public dashboard displaying performance benchmarks and KPIs for process improvements for platting and permitting; and to determine a penalty.</p>
3	9	County Clerk	<p>To establish the Salary Grievance Committee pursuant to Local Government Code Section 152.014(a)(1).</p> <p>*****</p> <p>To adopt and enter into the minutes the randomized list of individuals eligible to serve as public members as provided by the County Clerk and the District Clerk.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>To select in the order of the randomized list provided by the Clerks the number of public members required to compose the Grievance Committee and forty alternates.</p>
3	13	Grants	Change to "\$226,255"

4	19	Executive Session	No Action
4	21	Emergency/Supplemental Items	No Action