



**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Controller Hollins Calls on Gov. Abbott to Stop Silencing Voters,  
Set Special Election for Texas's 18th Congressional District**

*Nearly 800,000 Texans left without a voice—Hollins urges immediate action to restore representation*

**HOUSTON** — Houston City Controller Chris Hollins is calling on Texas Governor Greg Abbott to stop silencing nearly 800,000 Houstonians and immediately set a date for the special election to fill the seat in Texas's 18th Congressional District, left vacant by the passing of U.S. Representative Sylvester Turner.

"Every Texan deserves a voice in Washington—including the nearly 800,000 people in TX-18," said Controller Hollins. "Delaying this election is a blatant political maneuver. It's a disservice to Houstonians, their families, and their futures. Representation is not a political bargaining chip—it is a foundational right."

Texas's 18th Congressional District spans a wide cross-section of Houston, representing neighborhoods like downtown, the Heights, Spring Branch, and the Second, Third, and Fifth Wards. Without an elected representative in place, these communities risk being sidelined on urgent federal issues—from healthcare access and public education to infrastructure investment, disaster relief, and economic development.

It has been over a month since Turner's passing. In four previous instances of a federal office vacancy, it has never taken Governor Abbott this long to set a date for a special election.

"This isn't just a political slight—it's a real harm," Hollins said. "The Governor's claim that Harris County can't run an effective election simply isn't true—and it cannot be used to justify silencing hundreds of thousands of Houstonians."

Hollins oversaw the 2020 elections as Harris County Clerk in the nation's third-largest county—a high-turnout, high-scrutiny cycle that drew national praise for its accessibility and security. His leadership during that moment has made him a leading voice in the fight for voting rights and democratic access.

"I know firsthand the power of the ballot box—and I know how dangerous it is when political leaders treat that power like a pawn," he said. "I won't stand by

while our democracy is chipped away. The people of TX-18 deserve better—and I'll fight every day to make sure their voices are heard.”

Controller Hollins is urging every resident of Texas's 18th Congressional District to take action by contacting the Governor's Office:

- Email: [greg.abbott@gov.texas.gov](mailto:greg.abbott@gov.texas.gov)
- Online: [Submit your message to the Governor](#)

“This is your district, your seat, and your voice. Don't let politics steal it. Make your voice heard—today.”

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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 resident's 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.