

TEXAS CONSERVATIVE REVIEW

CITY OF HOUSTON RUNOFF EDITION
2019 | VOLUME XIX ISSUE 19



**WILL
HOUSTON'S FUTURE
CONTINUE TO
BURN UNDER
SYLVESTER
TURNER...**



**...OR WILL
VOTERS PUT
OUT THE FIRE?**

INSIDE

PG 2 | TCR SPECIAL ENDORSEMENTS

PG 3 | BUZBEE IS THE RIGHT CANDIDATE

PG 5 | WHY HOUSTON FIREFIGHTERS SUPPORT BUZBEE

PG 6 | WILL HOUSTON'S FUTURE CONTINUE TO BURN?

**EVEN IF YOU DID NOT VOTE IN THE NOVEMBER ELECTION,
YOU ARE STILL ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN THE RUNOFF**

LIFE HAPPENS.



ERIC DICK FOR CITY COUNCIL

PAID POLITICAL AD ERIC DICK FOR HOUSTON CAMPAIGN JAY HAMBURGER, TREASURER. WWW.ERICDICK.ORG

TCR ENDORSEMENTS

By **Gary Polland**, TCR Editor-in-Chief

For a list of completed questionnaires and letter grades, please visit www.texasconservativereview.com

MAYOR: **TONY BUZBEE** **LETTER GRADE: A**

Tony Buzbee is an American success story. He grew up in rural Texas. His parents were working class—his father a meat cutter and his mother a school bus driver, so he understands financial hardship and the value of a dollar. **Buzbee** earned a Bachelor's Degree from Texas A & M on an ROTC scholarship which led him to a commission as a second lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps where he led troops in combat in Somalia and the Persian Gulf. After the Marines, **Buzbee** moved to Houston where he earned his law degree at the University of Houston and founded what would become one of the most successful law firms in the nation where he helped get justice for workers who had been killed or injured on the job. He's also stood up for victims of discrimination and even represented

Governor **Rick Perry** when he was wrongly prosecuted by the liberal Travis County District Attorney. **Tony** is also an accomplished businessman in the areas of real estate, hospitality and technology.

Tony Buzbee is the leader we need to direct Houston at this crossroad. He's led Marines. He's led teams of lawyers. He's led businesses. He's also Independent—independent of divisive partisan politics and partisan bickering... independent of cronyism and special interests and... independent of the pay-to-play donors who control politicians with their campaign contributions.

Buzbee has the leadership, experience and vision we need at the city. **Buzbee** can beat **Turner**, but conservatives need to band together, commit to getting back out to vote in the runoff and elect **Tony Buzbee**, the candidate who can put Houston back on track.

AT LARGE POSITION 1: **MIKE KNOX** **LETTER GRADE: A**

Mike Knox is a native Houstonian, a United States Air Force veteran and career law enforcement officer with the Houston Police Department. At HPD, **Knox** became a gang expert who helped create the HPD's first gang unit and wrote a book on the subject entitled, *Gangsta in the House; Understanding Gang Culture*. **Knox** was elected to Houston City Council in 2015 and has been an effective, conservative voice on Council.

AT LARGE POSITION 2: **WILLIE DAVIS** **LETTER GRADE: A**

Pastor **Willie Davis** is an impressive candidate for Houston City Council. This US Army veteran who volunteered during the Vietnam era and served in the U.S.

BUZBEE IS THE RIGHT CANDIDATE TO RESCUE THE CITY OF HOUSTON

Houston, we have serious problems and it is going to take a serious leader to solve them.

Houston, we MUST do better. If not, our city is ruined. We have already gone four years in the wrong direction; another four years under this mayor—who, because he is term-limited, will have a “blank check” to do as he pleases with no accountability—will accelerate the City’s demise even faster.

In this year’s election for Houston Mayor, TCR endorses **Tony Buzbee** because of his background, his stand on the issues and because he is the one person in this race who can rescue the city of Houston from four more years of heading in the wrong direction.

THE BUZBEE STORY: MEET TCR’S CHOICE FOR MAYOR

Tony Buzbee started out as the son of a butcher and a school bus driver. He was raised in the rural Texas town of Queen City (population around 1300) where his family of six shared a 1400 square foot home in which the walls were so thin that he frequently overheard his parents discussing which bills they could pay and which they could not. **Buzbee** fed chickens and hogs on the family farm and also worked to help support the family. **Buzbee** ultimately found his way out of his rural hometown with an ROTC scholarship to Texas A & M followed by a commission in the United States Marine Corps where he led Marines in combat in Somalia and the Persian Gulf.

After discharge from the Marines, **Buzbee** moved to Houston where he attended and graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Houston Law Center. After a brief time working

for a large law firm, **Buzbee** founded his own firm where he specialized in helping workers seriously injured and killed on the job. Since he founded his firm, he has grown it to be one of the top firms in the nation. In addition to his legal career, **Buzbee** has an extensive business career in which he has created jobs and helped



turn around failing businesses which have included restaurants and hotels. He’s built a real estate portfolio of commercial and residential properties. He’s also been involved with tech

***Tony Buzbee is the
candidate with the
character, skills
and vision we
need to correct the
wrong direction of
the past four years.***

startups like the mobile app Favor, which was just sold to the HEB grocery chain. Impressively, **Buzbee** has built all of his ventures with no debt.

Buzbee’s modest upbringing taught him the value of a dollar, and as a businessman he has a perspective that **Turner** does not possess; one that will help guide the city to fiscal fitness. **Buzbee** is a leader; he led young Marines in combat and he’s led teams of lawyers to build one of the most successful law firms in the

country, and ultimately he is prepared to lead the 22,000 workers at the city of Houston out of mediocrity and into excellence. Finally, the Marine Corps, especially Special Ops where he served, helped create the type of character and leadership the city needs at its current crossroads. There is a Marine Corps slogan that says, “**Improvise, Adapt, and Overcome**”, which is a mindset that allows **Marines** to deal with any

physical, mental, or spiritual hardship. It is a mindset that will serve us well at the helm of the city, where **Buzbee** will implement his plan for the future.

LET’S GET BEHIND BUZBEE AND TAKE THE CITY IN A BRIGHTER DIRECTION

Voters have the chance to change the City’s direction by electing **Tony Buzbee**. **Buzbee** also hasn’t taken a single campaign contribution because he vows to remain independent of donors and special interests. And if elected mayor, Tony has pledged to donate his salary to charity. **Tony Buzbee** is the candidate with the character, skills and vision we need to correct the wrong direction of the past four years. But in order for him to take on that mission, all of us—male and female, young and old, rich and poor and those of every color and ethnicity—must join together and vote for a brighter future by voting for **Tony Buzbee**. ★

Army Special Forces (Green Berets) went on to earn a Bachelor's degree in Political Science as well as a Bachelor's and a Master's Degree in Theology. In addition to his service as a senior pastor, **Davis** has impressive private sector experience at companies such as Brown & Root and Phillips 66.

AT LARGE POSITION 3: **MICHAEL KUBOSH** LETTER GRADE: A

Michael Kubosh first earned notoriety before his election to City Council as the man who fought City Hall and won in his campaign to remove red light cameras in the City of Houston. Since his election, **Kubosh** has made a major impact at City Hall. The scrappy incumbent has been a leader and a solid conservative vote on a number of issues important to conservatives. TCR proudly recommended **Kubosh** in his two previous campaigns based on his business background, community involvement and for his willingness to fight for what is right; **Michael Kubosh** has delivered on all counts and TCR once again endorses **Michael Kubosh** for re-election to Houston City Council, At-Large, Position 3.

AT LARGE POSITION 4: **ANTHONY DOLCEFINO** LETTER GRADE: A

Anthony Dolcefino presents an opportunity to elect a different perspective—one of youth and idealism—to Houston City Council. **Dolcefino** is young, idealistic and reform-minded and plans to make his mark on the political landscape. Like **Tony Buzbee** at the top of the ticket, **Dolcefino** hopes to shine a light on the business-as-usual politics of City Hall and bring transparency to the city of Houston. His fiery pursuit of the truth is likely attributed to his DNA—he is the son of **Wayne Dolcefino**, long considered one of Houston's best investigative journalists. **Dolcefino** is a graduate of the University of Texas and has been an active conservative—as a member of the Young Conservatives of Texas and former staffer for Briscoe Cain (who was named the most conservative member of the Texas House). **Dolcefino** has earned the support of numerous conservative groups including the Kingwood Tea Party, Spring Branch Republicans, POLICE, INC and even has the backing of the Houston Fire Fighters. TCR is proud to join the impressive list of

organizations backing this conservative rising star.

AT LARGE POSITION 5: **ERIC DICK** LETTER GRADE: A

Eric was born and raised in Houston, Texas. He received his Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix in 2004 and earned his Juris Doctor from the Thomas M. Cooley Law School, the largest law school in the United States. **Eric** has also received his L.L.M., which is an advanced law degree in taxation, from the University of Alabama School of Law. **Dick** is also a licensed real estate agent and a licensed insurance agent. **Eric** is currently a Trustee with the Harris County Department of Education where he has served since his election in 2016.

Eric Dick is a public servant with a passion for helping people. An attorney by profession, **Dick** represents homeowners whose claims have been delayed, denied or underpaid by insurance companies. **Dick** fights for homeowners to be made whole following damage caused by fires, hailstorms and severe weather events, such as Hurricane Harvey and Tropical Storm Imelda. His passion for helping extends beyond his profession. For years, he has been fighting to overturn the City of Houston's 2012 ban on feeding the homeless, which makes it a crime to distribute food to more than five people without an approved city permit. **Dick** has a website dedicated to the issue at <http://www.feeding.rocks>.

TCR is confident that **Eric Dick** will bring a fresh, outsider's perspective and shake things up at City Hall. His opponent, by contrast, is the ultimate insider with ties to both the **Turner** administration and his Flood Czar, **Stephen Costello**, the architect of Houston's notorious "Rain Tax."

With his heart and history of helping people, along with a conservative world view and business experience, **Eric Dick** is the obvious choice for the Houston City Council, At-Large, Position 5 seat. TCR gives **Eric Dick** an enthusiastic thumbs-up.

DISTRICT A: **GEORGE HARRY ZOES** LETTER GRADE: A

George Harry Zoes is the son of Greek immigrants who have been in Spring Branch since 1958. **Zoes** is a graduate of Spring Branch High School and the University of Houston. **Zoes**, like his father, is an

entrepreneur who plans to bring his 30 years of business experience to Houston City Council to help balance the budget, cut excess waste, and attract new businesses to the area. With his business background and a strong connection to District A that spans six decades, **George Harry Zoes** is well-prepared to represent the district on Council.

DISTRICT C: **SHELLEY KENNEDY** LETTER GRADE: C

Shelley Kennedy gets the nod from TCR, first and foremost, because she chose to participate in the screening, earning a passing grade, while her opponent refused, keeping her positions hidden. **Kennedy** is endorsed by the Houston Firefighters and her two most conservative former opponents in the first round, which speaks volumes about the choice.

DISTRICT F: **VAN HUYNH** LETTER GRADE: B

For the past three years, **Van Huynh** has served as Chief of Staff for outgoing District F Council Member **Steve Le**, which has given him unique insights into the district, its residents and their needs. With his City Hall background, **Huynh** is prepared to hit the ground running from day one.

DISTRICT J: **EDWARD POLLARD** LETTER GRADE: B

Like the District C endorsed candidate, **Edward Pollard** moved to the top of his race on TCR's scorecard by participating in the screening process including meeting with your Editor and completing the candidate questionnaire. **Pollard** is a graduate of Morehouse College, the Thurgood Marshall School of Law and is the founder of a law firm located in District J.

HCCS1, TRUSTEE, DISTRICT I: **DAVE WILSON** LETTER GRADE: A

Dave Wilson has been a conservative champion for decades. A successful business owner for over 35 years and former HCC Trustee, **Dave** has the leadership and integrity we need on the HCC board. ★

WHY HOUSTON FIREFIGHTERS SUPPORT TONY BUZBEE FOR MAYOR

By *Patrick M. "Marty" Lancton, President, Houston Professional Firefighters Association*



Like the 53 percent of Houston voters that rejected the failed tenure of Sylvester Turner last week, Houston firefighters know we need change at City Hall.

We need change to save the Houston Fire Department. Our city needs a mayor that respects public safety and will better provide basic city services. That's why we're proud to support Tony Buzbee for mayor in the run-off.

For a generation, city politicians – especially Sylvester Turner – have neglected the fire department and its people. Our fleet, facilities and people are at a breaking point.

Houston firefighters are endorsing Tony because he pledges to help fix the fire department. He actually wants to work – not fight – with us to give Houstonians the best fire department possible. He understands balancing the needs of firefighter's families with the public safety expectations of taxpayers.

As a decorated Marine, successful lawyer and business owner, and philanthropist, Tony understands the hard work necessary to bring about change at City Hall. As we talked with Tony over time, he assured us of several things:

- He will end the reckless and vindictive mismanagement of our fire department which threatens our delivery of excellent service

***As a decorated
Marine, successful
lawyer and
business owner, and
philanthropist, Tony
understands the
hard work necessary
to bring about
change at City Hall.***

- He will respect the will of the 298,000 Proposition B voters and institute equal police and fire pay

- He will maintain the current shift-model, which helps ensure minority promotions and department diversity
- He will end the city's political and legal war on Houston firefighter's families

Tony put it best when he said, "As mayor, I'll treat our public safety professionals fairly and follow the will of the voters." That's all we want – fairness and a commitment to sensibly working with firefighters.

With Tony Buzbee as mayor, the city will reinvest in the fire service – to improve response times, to improve service, and to reclaim our status as a world-class fire department.

Houston firefighters deliver excellent service, we're good stewards of city resources, and we give back to the community. We're proud to be the

top-rated city service. But, again, we're at a breaking point. We need a better, more constructive partner at City Hall.

Houston firefighters look forward to working with Tony. His commitment to cleaning up City Hall and refocusing on the true mission of the city is one

we share. Like Tony, we believe it's time to end the pay-to-play corruption at Houston City Hall. It's time for change.

Lancton is president of the Houston Professional Fire Fighters Association. ★



- He will not further destabilize the retirement security of firefighters and HFD retirees by repeating Turner's billion-dollar raid of the strong firefighter pension fund which was used to prop up chronically mismanaged police and municipal pensions

WILL HOUSTON'S FUTURE CONTINUE TO BURN UNDER FOUR MORE YEARS OF SYLVESTER TURNER?

In 2015, Houston voters had no clue that they were setting fire to Houston's future when they elected **Sylvester Turner** mayor of Houston. It was a future that promised to be bright based on **Turner's** campaign promises. After four years under **Turner's** hand, hindsight makes clear a path littered with broken promises and the disastrous consequences of those broken promises over four long years.

THE TURNER RECORD OF FAILURE

PUBLIC SAFETY

- In 2015, he promised to bolster HPD's ranks by an additional 800 officers, but has had a net loss of officers. After months of denial by **Turner** and his media apologists, new crime statistics prove that crime is actually up. **Turner** has also created animosity between police and fire fighters by fighting pay parity and refusing to implement the pay raise that nearly 300,000 voters approved.

FLOODING

- **Turner** failed to prepare for flooding even though experts advised him the city was not prepared. It wasn't until after Harvey that **Turner** started doing anything. And they haven't done much since. **Turner** Flood Czar **Stephen Costello** recently admitted, "When people ask us today if we're more prepared now than we were prepared for Harvey, the answer, unfortunately, is no..."
- Harvey response was an unmitigated disaster. Residents had no warning that the gates at the Barker and Addicks Reservoirs would be opened and their homes would be flooded. **Turner** refused to mobilize HFD to aid in rescues, because he did not want to pay for overtime.

- Hurricane Harvey relief has been the disaster after the disaster; to date only 15 homeowners have been helped. The **Turner** administration's handling of disaster assistance has been so incompetent that the state has had to step in and take over. **Turner** has paid contractors (almost every single one of them a campaign donor) millions to do nothing.

*After four years
under Turner's hand,
hindsight makes clear
a path littered with
broken promises
and the disastrous
consequences of those
broken promises.*

- The **Turner** administration approved the development in Kingwood that led to flooding in May. Following that flood, **Turner** failed to do anything about the development and Kingwood flooded once again during Tropical Storm Imelda, leaving even more homes with flood damage.
- **Turner** continues to divert drainage revenues away from drainage projects.

CORRUPTION

- Pay-to-play—the practice of rewarding campaign donors with city contracts—is running rampant under the **Turner** administration. **Turner** doesn't even try to deny it. He frequently tells audiences

that he is doing exactly what previous administrations have done. One flagrant example of pay-to-play involves Mayor **Sylvester Turner's** former law partner, who was awarded \$6.7 million for "legal services" from a \$35 million Hurricane Harvey relief contract.

- Just recently the media broke the story of how **Sylvester Turner** created an internship for a personal "friend" at \$95,000 per year; more incredibly, **Turner** green-lighted the sweetheart position during a hiring freeze.

CITY FINANCES

- **Sylvester Turner** has managed to bloat the city budget to \$5.1 Billion for FY2020, up nearly \$250 million from 2019. In total, spending has increased overall by 15% since **Turner** took office, but still ran a deficit of \$435 million in the last budget.

What is also undeniable in this review is that if the fire feeding off the hopes and dreams of Houstonians is allowed to continue for four more years under **Sylvester Turner**, the damage to our city will be catastrophic.

But there is hope. Conservatives can win this election and call for help to put out the fire.

In the 2015 runoff election between **Turner** and **Bill King**, **Turner** won by only 4,000 votes, which means that if conservatives will turn out to vote, we can send **Turner** packing and save our city.

In this race, **Buzbee** has something that **King** did not—the full-throated support of the Houston Firefighters who are working tirelessly to elect **Buzbee**—which means **Buzbee** has a real chance at victory.

Conservatives, this is your call to action—get out and vote and take as many like-minded conservatives with you as you can muster. The future of our city depends on you! ★

TCR RECOMMENDATIONS

By law, you can detach this page and take it into the polls with you.

We have chosen the most qualified, conservative candidate in select contested races.

Please read our analysis beginning on page three to help you make an informed decision.

ELECTION DAY IS DECEMBER 14, EARLY VOTING IS UNDERWAY AND RUNS THROUGH DECEMBER 10

For a list of early voting and Election Day voting times and locations, please visit www.HarrisVotes.com

MAYOR

✓ **TONY BUZBEE**

AT LARGE POSITION 1

✓ **MIKE KNOX**

AT LARGE POSITION 2

✓ **WILLIE R. DAVIS**

AT LARGE POSITION 3

✓ **MICHAEL KUBOSH**

AT LARGE POSITION 4

✓ **ANTHONY DOLCEFINO**

AT LARGE POSITION 5

✓ **ERIC DICK**

DISTRICT A

✓ **GEORGE HARRY ZOES**

DISTRICT C

✓ **SHELLEY KENNEDY**

DISTRICT F

✓ **VAN HUYNH**

DISTRICT J

✓ **EDWARD POLLARD**

HCCS1, TRUSTEE, DISTRICT I

✓ **DAVE WILSON**

ABOUT TEXAS CONSERVATIVE REVIEW EDITOR

Gary Polland



Gary Polland is one of the most thoughtful conservative voices in Texas. **Gary's** thoughts and opinions are regularly found in and on the popular TCR email newsletter and website, his regular radio appearances, the informative TCR voter's guides, and his co-hosting of *Red, White and Blue* – the popular weekly public affairs show on Houston Public Media (PBS Channel 8). *Red, White and Blue* is the longest running television public affairs show in Texas, now in its 18th season (visit www.houstonpublicmedia.org for past episodes). **Polland** is an opinion leader for public policy minded conservatives,

independents and liberals who can think for themselves. He believes that it is the Texas Conservative Review's job to give citizens all the information and trust them to do what is best.

***Gary is the
co-host of Red,
White and Blue
- the popular
public affairs
show.***

Polland has been a practicing attorney for more than 44 years. His practice is a mix of trial work in family, civil and juvenile courts. He is Board Certified in Civil Trial law and has a reputation as a successful and skilled

advocate for his clients. In 2018, **Gary** was honored to be selected as one of the top 15 civil trial lawyers in the Houston area by *Houstonia Magazine*.

Polland served as Harris County Republican Party Chairman from 1996 to 2002. **Gary** is remembered as the most successful Chairman in the last 30 years, having won over 97% of all races during his term. He also led the party into public policy activism on issues relating to public schools, tax rates, opposing legislating judges and defeating a badly conceived arena deal.

Gary appears regularly as a commentator on KTRH 740, KPRC 950, KSEV 700, and News 88.7 radio stations in the Houston area.

Whether it is online, in books, on television, radio or the latest public policy debate, **Gary Polland** is a thoughtful conservative commentator and political leader that voters have come to trust for his insight, intellectual honesty, and the accurate information he regularly shares with voters. ★

Online subscriptions are free so please join the family at
www.texasconservativereview.com

For a list of early voting and Election Day voting
times and locations, please visit
www.HarrisVotes.com

TONY BUZBEE

For Mayor

**IF YOU'RE FED UP WITH FAILED
LEADERSHIP IN HOUSTON,**

LET'S FIX IT!

- Not a career politician.
- Not accepting campaign donations.
- Will eliminate pay-to-play.
- Will keep our streets safe, fix outdated infrastructure, and improve city services.



VOTE TONY BUZBEE FOR MAYOR | DEC. 14, 2019
EARLY VOTING UNDERWAY UNTIL TUESDAY, DEC. 10TH

 TonyBuzbeeForMayor.com  [TonyBuzbeeHouston](https://www.facebook.com/TonyBuzbeeHouston)  [@TonyBuzbee](https://twitter.com/TonyBuzbee)  (713) 636-9717

Paid political advertising Paid for by Tony Buzbee for Mayor, Gilbert Garcia, Treasurer