

Everything You Need to Know About Houston’s Election Results: Runoffs, Propositions, and Political Shake-Ups

By: **Chelsea Lenora Small**, Forward Times Associate Publisher and Editor-in-Chief

The votes are in — and if you thought Election Day would bring final answers across the board, think again. From the race to fill Texas’ 18th Congressional District seat to Houston’s At-Large Position 4 contest and a slate of statewide propositions, last week’s results set the stage for a December showdown and major policy shifts across Texas.



Harris County Attorney Christian Menefee, a candidate for the open seat in the 18th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives, speaks to his supporters during an election night watch party in Houston, Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2025.

18th Congressional District: Menefee and Edwards Head to a Runoff
The battle for the 18th Congressional District — long considered the heart of Houston’s Black political power — is headed to a **December 13 runoff** between two well-known Democrats: **Christian Menefee**, acting Harris County Attorney, and **Amanda Edwards**, former Houston City Council member.

With **99% of votes counted**, Menefee led with just under **29%**, while Edwards trailed closely behind with **26%**, according to *The New York Times* and *Houston Chronicle*. State Rep. **Jolanda Jones** finished third with roughly **19%**, and Republican **Carmen Maria Montiel** earned about **7%** of the vote. None of the 16 candidates in the crowded field crossed the 50% threshold needed to avoid a runoff.

The race follows months of political turbulence in a district that’s seen two back-to-back losses of veteran leaders. Former Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, a Democratic powerhouse and stalwart of the Congressional Black Caucus, died in July 2024. Her successor, former Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, who won the seat in November 2024, died just two months into his term from bone cancer in March 2025.

Since Turner’s death, the 18th District has been without representation in Congress — a void Democrats have blamed on Gov. Greg Abbott’s delay in calling the special election. Whoever wins the December runoff will have only a brief reprieve before campaigning again in **March 2026**, when Texas’ newly redrawn congressional maps take effect.



Amanda Edwards speaks during her election party for U.S. Rep. District 18 at Late August in Houston on Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2025.

City of Houston: Boykins and Salinas in Runoff for At-Large Position 4
The race for Houston City Council’s At-Large Position 4 seat — previously held by Letitia Plummer — is also heading to a runoff. **Alejandra Salinas**, a Houston attorney and partner at Susman Godfrey LLP, secured **21% of the vote**, while former council member **Dwight Boykins** came in with **20%**.

Plummer vacated her seat earlier this year to run for Harris County Judge. Salinas has served on the Greater Houston LGBTQ+ Chamber of Commerce and as a Democratic National Committee At-Large member. Boykins is a former city councilman and one-time mayoral candidate.

Other contenders included Jordan Thomas, a former chief of staff to both Amanda Edwards and Letitia Plummer, who gained traction among younger voters for his focus on public transit and bayou safety. The crowded field also featured more than a dozen other hopefuls, including Kathy L. Tatum, Martina Lemond Dixon, and Angie Thibidoux.

Propositions: Texans Say ‘Yes’ to All 17 Constitutional Amendments
Texas voters overwhelmingly approved **all 17 constitutional amendments** on the ballot, ushering in changes that will impact everything from taxes and education to infrastructure and medical research.

Among the most notable:

- **Proposition 10** — which would temporarily lower property taxes on homes destroyed by fire — received the largest share of voter support, with **89% in**

favor.

- **Proposition 6**, prohibiting new taxes on securities transactions like stock trading, was the **closest contest**, narrowly passing with **55% approval**.
- **Proposition 14** allocates **\$3 billion** to establish the **Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**, dedicated to studying Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, and other brain-related diseases.
- **Proposition 13** raises the **homestead exemption** for homeowners across the state, expanding property tax relief.

Voters also backed major investments in **water infrastructure (Prop 4)** and **technical college expansion (Prop 1)**, signaling broad public support for strengthening state systems in education and resource management.

According to the Texas Secretary of State’s unofficial results, **all propositions passed** with comfortable margins — a rare show of unity in a politically divided state.

What’s Next
With key races heading to runoffs and statewide measures now law, Houston’s political energy remains high heading into December. The upcoming **runoff election on December 13** will determine not just who represents the 18th District, but how the city’s leadership — and legacy — continue to evolve amid shifting political lines.

OWNING HERSTORY Continued from Front Page



Actress and activist Aunjanue Ellis-Taylor speaks at the “Owning HERstory” event at Journey HTX Conference and Retreat Center, sharing her personal story and calling for Black women to lead the conversation on reproductive freedom.

no one kinda noticed.” Searching for the lesson or takeaway she could glean from the decision, she ultimately realized that her billboard in Tallahassee (“in Ron DeSantis’ backyard”) meant “that was one less space that they could use to shame Black women.” Sometimes the battle for liberation is one we fight without needed support. Ellis-Taylor revealed how, when she put up those billboards in Florida, she’d asked Planned Parenthood to help her amplify the message. They didn’t. But they later called, needing her for something. Looking around a room filled with Black women, Ellis-Taylor explained why that bothered her.

“White women own the discussion about abortion,” she said. “It is different. It is culturally different, sociologically different, it’s economically different. Our reasons for doing it are different. Our obstacles to doing it are different.” She called on her fellow Black women to own the conversation around abortion and bodily autonomy: “We gon’ have to make it look like us.”

Before opening the floor for questions, Dr. Kimberly Baker, executive director of *Own Every Piece*, asked Ellis-Taylor what she hopes the next generation of Black women will feel and know that perhaps her generation could not. Ellis-Taylor said she prays they’ll have bravery, reflecting on the silence she said was imposed on her during childhood, in the pews of her Mississippi church.

“A lot of what happens in the pews goes beyond the pews and becomes culture,” she said. “And so what is concerning me now is that this Christian nationalism ish is going to bleed into culture.” In some ways, she conceded, it already has. But Ellis-Taylor, who hyphenated her name to honor her late mother, has demonstrated the courage to interrogate those nationalist ideas and to have hard conversations about uncomfortable topics like race and reproductive health.

Later, during the audience Q&A, Ellis-Taylor was asked about queerness (she came out as bisexual in 2022). In response, she opened up about her Southern Baptist upbringing — a life, she said, “of rules.” Much of what she wanted to do was forbidden: music, dancing, even playing cards.

On a school bus one day, she found herself looking at a young woman named Caroline and realizing, *there’s not a boy on the planet that makes me feel what this woman makes me feel*. But growing up in the Bible Belt meant those feelings couldn’t be acted on, so she pushed them away. “I fought that for a long, long time,” she admitted, joking that she “missed out on some good times... with very, very good-looking women.”

Eventually, she said, “I can’t live like this.” Though she had a man in her life and thought that part of her identity was behind her, she realized otherwise: “No, it’s not over. This is who I am.” Her coming-out process, she added, “is not clean. It’s messy. And I own that... But it’s who I am.”

Soon after, an audience member said she couldn’t recall seeing any film that centered Black liberation or women’s liberation around topics like abortion or rape, or general bodily autonomy. Ellis-Taylor answered that she is one of those filmmakers. She said she’s been working on a film about a Black woman who was sterilized against her will.

Ellis-Taylor emphasized the need for compelling narratives as opposed to documentaries. “And the other thing is — this is the hard part: we cannot look outside of ourselves to do that. That means us investing in ourselves.” She’s done just that: at a small HBCU outside of Jackson, Mississippi, she held what she called a “convocation” — a weekend of Black female filmmakers, musicians, and authors, creating and discussing their work.

“I’m paying for that solely by myself,” she said. “Nobody gave me nothing.” She used her money to bring women from all over the country to talk to students and engage with them in a way that they wouldn’t have otherwise. “We have to do that,” Ellis-Taylor said, urging the crowd to realize the power of movies and fund relevant narratives: “We’ve got to do it ourselves.”

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LEGAL NOTICE

Application has been made with Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Package Store Permit by Echezolachukwu Esighasim, Elite Liquors, to be located at 13956 Westheimer Road, Houston, Harris County, TX. Officers of the said corporation: Echezolachukwu Esighasim [owner].

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Request for Proposal – Houston-Galveston Area Council – Public Services – AI Consulting Services – AI02-26

H-GAC is soliciting responses for the selection of qualified service providers in the area of AI Consulting Services and to make these services available to Customers of the HGACBuy Cooperative Purchasing Program under blanket type contracts.

To view the solicitation documents, visit <https://www.hgacbuy.org/bid-notices> or [ESBD \(txsmartbuy.com\)](https://www.esbd.com).

Response Deadline: December 18, 2025 @ 12:00 P.M. CT