



PRESS RELEASE

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City Controller Chris Hollins Launches 2025 Audit Plan

Audits to Identify Cost-Saving Measures, Improve Efficiency, and Strengthen Financial Oversight Amid \$330 Million Budget Shortfall

HOUSTON, TX – Houston City Controller Chris Hollins today announced the release of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Audit Plan, a strategic initiative to enhance financial accountability, optimize city resources, and maximize taxpayer dollars. The plan prioritizes high-impact audits to identify cost savings, eliminate waste, and strengthen fiscal oversight and outcomes across city departments.

“As the City’s financial watchdog, my job is to ensure every dollar works for Houstonians,” said Controller Chris Hollins. “This audit plan is more than a fiscal checkup—it’s a roadmap to smarter spending, greater efficiency, and better city services. In a time of financial strain, we must proactively find solutions that set Houston on a path to long-term economic stability.”

The FY2025 Audit Plan focuses on:

- **Performance audits** to assess efficiency and effectiveness in city operations;
- **Compliance audits** to ensure financial policies and regulations are followed;
- **Contract audits** to scrutinize vendor agreements and spending;
- **Forensic audits** to detect and prevent fraud, waste, and abuse; and
- **Cost recovery initiatives** to reclaim potential revenue losses.

The plan also includes follow-up audits to track the implementation of past recommendations, reinforcing accountability and a cycle of continuous improvement in city operations.

“Long-term fiscal health requires more than short-term or temporary funding sources,” Hollins said. “Through transparent oversight and best practices, we can help to safeguard taxpayer dollars by eliminating waste and maximizing efficiency—improving financial outcomes today while also investing in Houston’s future.”

Under Hollins’s leadership, the City Controller’s Office expanded its audit scope to incorporate enhanced performance, contract, and forensic reviews to identify financial risks before they become costly issues.

To keep residents informed, the Controller’s Office will publish quarterly audit reports on its website, providing regular updates on findings, recommendations, and corrective actions.

“While the word ‘audit’ can sound intimidating, our approach has value beyond uncovering problems—it can help drive solutions and outcomes,” Hollins said. “Through transparent reporting and communication, we will provide City leaders with a pathway to operate with greater fiscal responsibility.”

The FY2025 Audit Plan, which includes the complete list of audits, is available online at [Annual Audit Plan](#).

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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 has served as Houston’s City Controller since January 2024, bringing innovative leadership and a results-driven approach to financial oversight and city governance. With a background in law, management consulting, and public service, he is committed to strengthening accountability, efficiency, and transparency in city government. A graduate of Morehouse College, Yale Law School, and Harvard Business School, Hollins applies his expertise and commitment to service to promote fiscal responsibility and long-term economic sustainability for Houston. Rooted in Third Ward, where he lives with his family, Hollins is dedicated to building a financially resilient city that works for all Houstonians now and for generations to come.