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RAPPIN'
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READ THE LABEL

Progressives are not a monolith, and the Democratic Party's internal spectrum is far more textured than the labels often thrown around in national discourse. Three figures — James Talarico, Abdul El Sayed, and Jasmine Crockett — illustrate how varied the progressive lane truly is, even as they share a broad ideological home.

In Texas, Rep. James Talarico represents a values driven, coalition building progressivism rooted in public education, economic fairness, and ethical governance. His tone is calm, moral, and often faith inflected, which leads some observers to mistake him for a moderate. But his legislative record — from insulin price caps to aggressive ethics reforms — places him firmly in the progressive camp. He advances reform through persuasion rather than confrontation, making him a bridge builder within a polarized Legislature.

By contrast, this year's Michigan's Democratic Senate primary winner, Abdul El Sayed, embodies a policy forward, Sanders aligned progressivism. His advocacy for Medicare for All, campaign finance reform, and left leaning foreign policy critiques situates him on the party's left flank, though not in the socialist lane. El Sayed's politics reflect a public health lens and a structural critique of inequality, aligning him with the national progressive movement's most ambitious policy thinkers.

Then there's Texas's Rep. Jasmine Crockett, whose civil rights driven, confrontational progressivism has made her a national figure. Crockett's sharp pushback against GOP extremism, her unapologetic defense of marginalized communities, and her high visibility committee clashes define a style that is often mischaracterized as "radical." In substance, however, her agenda is mainstream progressive: voting rights, reproductive freedom, and criminal justice reform.

Together, these three leaders demonstrate that "progressive" is not a single ideological posture but a constellation of approaches — moral, structural, and confrontational — all aimed at expanding equity and protecting democratic rights. Their differences matter, but their shared commitments reveal a movement broader and more dynamic than any single label can capture.

AUSTIN FLAGGED AS “HIGH RISK” FOR DISPLACEMENT IN NEW FEDERAL HOUSING REPORT

By Thomas Wyatt | EIC, The Villager



Federal analysis places East Austin among the nation's most vulnerable neighborhoods as rents rise, affordability collapses, and redevelopment accelerates

(AUSTIN, TX) - Austin has been officially designated a “high risk displacement market” in a sweeping new federal housing report that warns the city is entering a critical period where long standing communities — particularly in East Austin — face escalating pressure from rising rents, shrinking affordable stock, and rapid redevelopment. The report, released this week by a federal housing agency, places Austin alongside cities like Miami, Denver, and Seattle as metros where displacement risk is accelerating faster than local policy responses.

For East Austin residents, the findings confirm what many have felt for years: that the neighborhoods built by Black and Brown families, shaped by decades of cultural resilience and community organizing, are now among the most endangered in the country. The report's mapping tool highlights census tracts east of I 35 as “severe risk zones,” citing a combination of rent spikes, investor driven acquisitions, and the erosion of legacy housing.

The federal analysis points to three forces driving Austin's vulnerability. First, rent growth continues to outpace wages, even after a brief cooling period in 2023–24. Second, affordable units are disappearing faster than they can be replaced, with older multifamily complexes being demolished or renovated into higher priced stock. Third, redevelopment pressure is intensifying, especially in areas where public land — including closed school campuses — is being eyed for private projects.

Local housing advocates say the report should serve as a wake up call. They argue that Austin's current policy tools, while improving, remain insufficient to counter displacement at the scale the federal government is now documenting. The report notes that Austin's affordable housing pipeline is growing, but not nearly fast enough to offset losses

in historically marginalized neighborhoods.

City officials responded cautiously, acknowledging the seriousness of the designation while emphasizing ongoing efforts to expand affordable housing, strengthen tenant protections, and preserve public land. But the report's findings arrive at a moment when Austin is already grappling with major land use decisions — including the future of ten closing AISD campuses, many located in neighborhoods flagged as high risk.

The intersection of school closures and displacement risk is particularly stark. As campuses shutter, communities lose not only educational anchors but also stabilizing public spaces that have historically served as buffers against redevelopment. Without deliberate intervention, the report warns, such closures can accelerate displacement by removing neighborhood institutions and opening land to market rate development.

For families in East Austin, the federal designation is more than a policy label — it is a reflection of lived reality. Rising rents, shrinking options, and the steady march of redevelopment have reshaped daily life, forcing many to move farther from the city center or leave Austin altogether. The report's authors stress that without aggressive preservation strategies, cities like Austin risk losing the very communities that define their cultural identity.

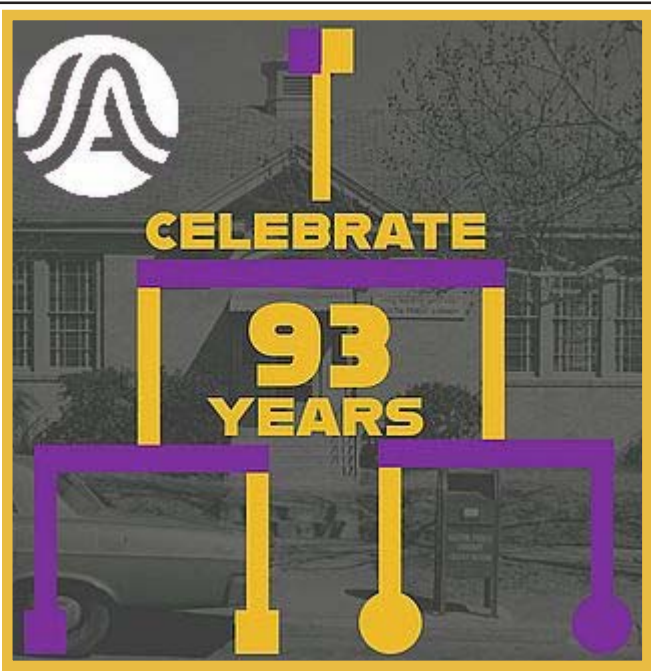
The federal government's warning places Austin at a crossroads. The city can continue on its current trajectory, where market forces dictate neighborhood futures, or it can treat the report as a mandate to act — preserving affordability, protecting public land, and ensuring that East Austin's historic communities remain rooted where they have always belonged.

Carver Genealogy Center Anniversary Celebration

(AUSTIN, TX) - Connecting the Carver community and beyond for 93 years!

Join us on Saturday, September 12 from 1pm-3pm, in celebrating the 93rd anniversary of the Carver Genealogy Center opening its doors to the public! Learn about the history of the building and how it has served as a library, a museum, and now a Genealogy Center to the Carver community and beyond. Free and open to the public.

George Washington Carver Museum,
Cultural and Genealogy Center
1163 Angelina St. - Austin, TX 78702



INSIDE

FOR the proposal: Kirk Watson, Velasquez, Jose "Chito" Vela, Zohair "Zo" Qadri, Marc Duche
PRESENT and not voting:
AGAINST the proposal:
ABSENT:

Visit Texas.Gov/PropertyTaxes
City of Austin set to propose tax hike next week.
See NOTICE
Page 2



Expect another bond proposal in November.
See BALLOT
Page 3



Hot rotisserie chicken may be on the menu for SNAP recipients.
See CONGRESS
Page 4

The Portal to Texas History
texashistory.unt.edu

• Search for:
AUSTIN VILLAGER
to find over 11,000 documents of East Austin's true history recorded in the Villager newspaper.

Austin
3-1-1
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