

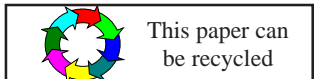


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RAPPIN'
Thomas Wyatt

UNDERRATED FORCE

Ken Paxton's commanding performance in Texas' Republican primary runoff underscores both his resilience among the GOP's overall base and the continued gravitational pull President Donald Trump holds over Texas Republican voters. Paxton secured a decisive advantage, powered by the same coalition that has repeatedly elevated him through controversy, impeachment, indictments, and internal party battles.

Paxton's victory was less a surprise than a reaffirmation of a political reality: in today's Texas GOP, Trump's endorsement remains the single most valuable asset a candidate can possess. Paxton leaned into that dynamic from the start. Trump not only endorsed him but actively campaigned for him, framing the attorney general as a loyal ally targeted by what he described as political enemies. That message resonated deeply with many primary voters who have grown increasingly distrustful of establishment Republicans and institutions.

The result was a primary electorate that treated Trump's backing as both a seal of approval and a call to action. Paxton's legal troubles, once seen as vulnerabilities, became rallying points for voters who view him as a fighter aligned with Trump's combative style. His opponent struggled to counter that narrative in a political environment where ideological distinctions mattered less than proximity to Trump.

Paxton's win also signals the broader direction of the Texas GOP heading into the 2026 Texas U. S. Senate race and beyond. Trump's influence remains unmatched, shaping not only candidate viability but the tone, priorities, and internal power structure of the party. For Texas Republicans, the primary wasn't a contest between candidates but rather a referendum on Trump's continued reign.

As the head-to-head fight against democratic candidate James Talarico approaches, Paxton enters with momentum and a base energized by Trump-engrossment, reinforcing a political landscape where loyalty to the 2nd-term president remains one of the most potent forces in Texas politics.

CESAR CHAVEZ STREET



By Villager staff

(AUSTIN, TX) - Austin has opened the first phase of public engagement on whether to rename Cesar Chavez Street, launching what is expected to be a months long conversation about how the city should respond to recently surfaced allegations against the late labor leader.

City staff confirmed that the renaming application has been formally filed, triggering Austin's standard review process: historical analysis, community outreach, and an assessment of impacts on residents and businesses along the corridor. No replacement name has been proposed, and officials emphasized that the city is gathering input before drafting any recommendations.

The discussion carries particular weight in East Austin, where the street's name has long been tied to Latino organizing, labor history, and the neighborhood's cultural identity. Community

groups, business owners, and longtime residents are preparing to weigh in as the city schedules listening sessions and opens online feedback channels.

The move follows national reporting detailing allegations from two women who say Chavez sexually abused them in the 1970s. Those claims have prompted cancellations of Chavez related events across the country and renewed scrutiny of how public institutions commemorate historical figures.

City Council members have not indicated a timeline for a vote. Under Austin's naming policies, any change would require Council approval after the public engagement period and a formal staff recommendation.

For now, the city is asking residents to participate in the early stages of a process that will test how Austin balances historical recognition, community values, and new information that complicates long standing public honors.

GOV. ABBOTT CONTINUES FREEZE ON ALL COLLEGE TUITION INCREASES STATEWIDE

By Villager staff

(VILLAGER) - Gov. Greg Abbott has ordered a statewide freeze on college tuition increases for the 2026-27 academic year, extending a policy first enacted in 2023 to curb rising higher education costs. The directive applies to all public universities and community colleges, effectively halting any planned tuition hikes for the next fiscal year.

Abbott framed the move as part of his administration's broader affordability agenda, citing the need to "keep Texas students in Texas schools" amid growing concerns about student debt and out of state migration. The governor's office said the freeze will remain in effect until lawmakers revisit higher education funding formulas in the 2027 legislative session.

The decision drew mixed reactions from campus leaders. University administrators praised the stability it offers families but warned that stagnant tuition could strain budgets already pressured by inflation and deferred maintenance. Community



colleges, meanwhile, welcomed the extension, noting that affordability remains central to enrollment recovery after pandemic era declines.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board will issue updated guidance next month outlining compliance procedures and reporting requirements for institutions.

Abbott's tuition freeze marks one of the longest statewide holds on college costs in the nation, positioning Texas as a test case for balancing affordability with institutional sustainability.

Cornyn's Loyalty to Trump Not Enough to Earn His Support

By Villager staff

(VILLAGER) - John Cornyn's four decade political career ended Tuesday with a decisive defeat to Attorney General Ken Paxton, marking a dramatic shift in the Texas GOP toward a more hardline, Trump aligned identity. Once emblematic of the party's establishment wing, Cornyn had survived its evolution from the Bush era through the Tea Party and into the dominance of Donald Trump. But his bipartisan work — especially the 2022-gun safety bill he negotiated after the Uvalde shooting — became a defining liability, provoking sustained backlash from grassroots conservatives and Trump himself.

Despite voting consistently with Trump's agenda

and serving as the Senate GOP's No. 2, Cornyn was increasingly cast as insufficiently loyal. Trump attacked him as a "RINO" and ultimately endorsed Paxton, sealing Cornyn's fate in the runoff. Paxton capitalized on the moment, portraying Cornyn as an out of touch Washington insider while presenting himself as the true champion of the MAGA movement, bolstered by his legal vindications and aggressive litigation against the Biden administration.

Cornyn warned that Paxton's nomination could endanger Republican dominance in Texas, but GOP voters rejected his appeals. His loss underscores the shrinking space for traditional, consensus driven conservatism in a party increasingly defined by loyalty to Trump and mainstream confrontation.

INSIDE



A changing of the guard in Texas. See **CHAPTER** Page 2



Pope's mea culpa wasn't just pathetic; it was insulting. See **APOLOGY** Page 3

What are the tools young Black Americans lack to generate generational wealth? See **ACCESS** Page 3

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New Child Care Resources Webpage

TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION

(AUSTIN, TX) – The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) today announced the launch of a new online resource for Texas employers. The Child Care Resources for Employers webpage is designed to help employers better support their employees' child care needs. "We are empowering Texas employers with the tools they need to support working families, which is a critical component of our state's economy," said TWC Chairman Joe Esparza. "This resource is a strategic investment in our workforce that helps businesses retain talent and

ensures Texas remains the best state to live, work, and raise a family." The new webpage was created in response to Senate Bill 1265, passed by the 89th Texas Legislature. It offers clear information on several topics including child care assistance programs, available state and federal tax credits, and dependent care savings accounts. The webpage also shares best practices and policies that businesses can adopt to help their employees access reliable child care. Studies show that supporting child care needs can improve employee morale, reduce absences, and increase productivity.

The Texas Restaurant Association (TRA) was a key partner in passing the legislation and developing the webpage. Their advocacy highlighted the need for these resources across all industries. "We hear consistently from local business operators that they want to help their employees access child care,

but they don't know where to start," said TRA Chief Public Affairs Officer and Co-Founder of Employers for Childcare (E4C) Kelsey Erickson Streufert. "We are grateful for the TWC's partnership creating the new ChildCare Resources for Employers webpage, and we look forward to building on this momentum to expand working families' access to affordable, quality childcare." This new resource makes it easier for Texas employers to offer benefits that help attract and retain their workforce. The webpage provides guidance on how employers can survey their staff to understand their specific child care challenges. This helps businesses offer the most effective and impactful support. The Child Care Resources for Employers page can be found within the Texas Work & Family Policies section of the TWC website. Employers are encouraged to visit the webpage to learn more.

Texas Job Market Steady in April

TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION

(AUSTIN, TX) - Texas reached a total of 14,394,300 nonfarm jobs after adding 300 positions in April. Over the year, the state added 82,400 jobs for an annual nonfarm growth rate of 0.6 percent, outpacing the national growth rate by 0.4 percentage points.

Texas' civilian labor force registered at 15,894,800 after decreasing by 21,800 over the month. Over the year, Texas' civilian labor force has added 49,200 people.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in Texas remained stable at 4.3 percent.

"Texas continues to demonstrate economic resilience by outpacing the national growth rate and reaching nearly 14.4 million jobs," said TWC Chair-

man Joe Esparza. "Through our support for initiatives like the Texas Jobs Council, we are gathering the insights necessary to keep our workforce competitive, so Texas employers can continue to lead their industries and drive our state's growth."

The Professional and Business Services industry had the largest private sector over-the-month increase in April after adding 4,700 jobs. Construction added 3,500 jobs over the month while Trade, Transportation, and Utilities added 1,300. Construction posted the highest annual growth rate of any major industry for the 21st month in a row at 2.1 percent in April.

"The growth we see across industries like construction and professional services translates to more high-demand opportunities for working Texans," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Alberto Treviño III. "TWC is committed to helping all Texans access these opportunities, which is why we continue to prioritize support for foster youth transitioning into the workforce and champion Second Chance initiatives that help people find paths to stable, successful careers."

The Midland metropolitan statistical area (MSA) had the lowest unemployment rate with a not seasonally adjusted rate of 2.9 percent in April. It was followed by the Abilene MSA at 3.0. The College Station-Bryan and San Angelo MSAs registered at 3.1 percent.

"To maintain a strong labor market, we must ensure that every Texan has a chance to enter the workforce, pursue their career goals, and achieve prosperity," said TWC Commissioner Representing the Public Brent Connett. "TWC is enabling more Texans to contribute to the overall strength of our economy through services like Vocational Rehabilitation and essential child care support for working families."

Employment estimates released by TWC are produced in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. *All estimates are subject to revision. To access this and more employment data, visit TexasLMI.com.

The Texas Labor Market Information Data for May is scheduled to be released on Friday, June 19, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. (CT).

EDITORIAL: A New Chapter in Texas' 18th District and a Test of Democratic Renewal

By Thomas Wyatt | EIC, The Villager

(VILLAGER) - The Democratic runoff in Texas' newly redrawn 18th Congressional District did more than settle a contest between two incumbents. It marked a generational turning point in one of the nation's most storied Black political strongholds, and it exposed the deeper tensions shaping Democratic politics in the Trump era: age versus youth, legacy versus momentum, and grassroots identity versus the gravitational pull of national money.

News outlets have projected Rep. Christian Menefee as the winner over longtime Rep. Al Green, though official results have not yet been certified. What is clear, however, is that the margin was decisive — a far cry from the razor thin first round in March. Voters in Houston and its surrounding counties delivered a mandate that signals both continuity and change: continuity in the district's half-century tradition of Black representation, and change in the form of a 38 year old attorney who has risen quickly through the ranks of Texas politics.

This runoff was never a typical primary. It was engineered by a mid decade redistricting plan pushed through by the Republican controlled Legislature, a maneuver designed to weaken Democratic power in the Houston region. The result was an unprecedented incumbent on incumbent showdown, pitting Green — a civil rights stalwart and one of Congress' most persistent critics of President Donald Trump — against Menefee, a freshman lawmaker who entered Congress only months ago af-



Rep. Christian Menefee

Rep. Al Green

ter winning a special election to replace the late Rep. Sylvester Turner.

Green's decision to leave his dramatically altered 9th District and seek refuge in the deep blue 18th was understandable. But the political terrain had shifted. Voters were ready for a new voice, and Menefee offered one: younger, legally battle tested, and fluent in the language of institutional accountability. As Harris County attorney, he sued the Trump administration repeatedly — a credential that resonated in a district where resistance to Trump's policies has long been a political baseline.

Yet the race was also shaped by forces far beyond Houston. More than \$4-5 million in outside spending from Protect Progress, a super PAC backed by cryptocurrency aligned donors, poured into the district on Menefee's behalf. Outgoing Rep. Jasmine Crockett appeared in one of the group's ads, adding another layer of intra party complexity. Green condemned the influx of megadonor money;

Menefee, for his part, maintained that super PACs should be banned altogether. The contradiction was not lost on voters, but it did not alter the outcome.

The 18th District has endured an unusual period of instability, with two sitting members — Sheila Jackson Lee in 2024 and Sylvester Turner in 2025 — dying in consecutive years. For long stretches, the district had no representation at all. That vacuum heightened the stakes of this election. Voters were not simply choosing between two Democrats; they were choosing who would restore continuity to a seat once held by Barbara Jordan, the trailblazing congresswoman whose legacy still defines the district's political identity.

Menefee's projected victory suggests that voters want both stability and renewal. They want a representative who honors the district's history while navigating the political realities of 2026 — a year defined by Trump's return to the White House, aggressive redistricting, and a national political climate that grows more polarized by the month.

The 18th District remains safely Democratic, but the message from its voters is anything but complacent. They have chosen a new standard bearer for a new era, one who will be judged not only by his ability to resist the pressures of Washington but by his commitment to the communities that have shaped this district for more than fifty years.

In a moment when democracy feels increasingly fragile, the voters of the 18th have offered a reminder: renewal is not abandonment. It is the work of a living, breathing electorate — one that knows its history and refuses to stand still.

CELEBRATE CARIBBEAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH THIS JUNE

Tisha-Vonique | ScriptHOPE

(MAY 26, 2026 – AUSTIN, TX) – Celebrate Caribbean American Heritage Month in Austin by experiencing a pierce of St. Croix, USVI heritage at the event, "Creating Coastal Chaney", during the Free First Sunday on June 7 presented by HEB at Bullock Texas State History Museum.

This free, family-friendly event invites visitors to journey between the coastlines of Galveston, Texas and the Caribbean searching for treasure. Each guest will be able to search through sand for their own treasures they can then turn into custom jewelry.

"Chaney" hunting is a traditional activity and jewelry originating from residents of Saint Croix, United States Virgin Islands. Chaney is a type of washed up historical artifact found uniquely on the



beach shores of Saint Croix that beachgoers discover as they walk along the coastlines. The fine china used during the Colonial Period often found their way to the bottom of the ocean and over decades of tumbling on the ocean floor, make their way to the surface for use in art, stemware, and mostly, custom jewelry.

ScriptHOPE founder Tisha Vonique draws this connection between her birthplace (USVI) and her home state of Texas by bridging common experiences during archeological coastal discoveries in Galveston and on Saint Croix. The Bullock Texas

State History Museum houses a collection of pottery fragments found not far from Galveston that visitors can discover. Except, guests visiting ScriptHOPE get to recreate their "found pottery" into custom Chaney jewelry!

We invite everyone to simulate a visit across coastlines connected by Caribbean waters this Juneteenth and leave with a beautiful Caribbean Chaney keepsake at the Coastal Chaney Workshop. Free First Sunday occurs from 10am-4pm at 1600 Congress Ave at the Bullock Texas State History Museum. All ages welcome.

An Apology Without Reparations



By Thomas Wyatt | EIC, The Villager

(EDITORIAL) — Pope Leo XIV issued an apology Monday for the Catholic Church’s role in legitimizing slavery, but for many descendants of enslaved Africans, the statement landed with the familiar thud of moral theater — an apology crafted for the record, not for repair.

Leo called the Church’s centuries long sanctioning of human bondage a “wound in Christian memory.” But the wound is not abstract. It is living, inherited, and measurable in the generational dispossession of Black people across the Americas, Africa, and the Caribbean — communities whose ancestors were enslaved under papal authority and whose descendants have yet to see a single act of material restitution from the institution that helped create their suffering.

For the first time, a pope acknowledged that the Vatican did not merely “fail to condemn” slavery but actively authorized it. Fifteenth century papal bulls gave European monarchs explicit permission to invade African and Indigenous lands, seize property, and reduce non Christians to perpetual slavery. These decrees formed the legal backbone of the Doctrine of Discovery, the ideological engine of colonialism.

Yet even as Leo XIV admits this history, he stops short of the one step that would signal genuine repentance: reparations.

Black Catholics and scholars have long insisted that apologies without repair are hollow. “The Catholic Church has never been an innocent bystander in the history of white supremacy,” historian Shannen Dee Williams said. Her point is unmistakable: the Church was an architect of racial slavery, not a passive observer. And architects owe restitution.

Leo’s encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas*, attempts to link the Church’s past sins to modern forms of exploitation in the digital age. But the pivot feels premature. How can the Vatican credibly warn against “new forms of enslavement” when it has

not addressed the old ones it helped engineer? How can it speak of human dignity while refusing to return stolen wealth, land, or resources extracted through centuries of Church sanctioned violence?

The Vatican repudiated the Doctrine of Discovery in 2023, but it has never rescinded the edicts that justified conquest and enslavement. It has never offered financial reparations to the descendants of the millions trafficked under its blessing. It has never committed to returning land taken from Indigenous nations under papal authority. And it has never created a global fund to repair the economic devastation that slavery produced. Devastation that continues to shape Black life today.

Leo’s own ancestry — a lineage that includes both enslaved people and slaveholders — underscores the entanglement of Catholicism, colonialism, and racial hierarchy. But personal lineage does not substitute for institutional accountability.

During a recent visit to Angola, Leo prayed at a shrine built on the site of a major slave trading hub. He spoke of “sorrow and great suffering” but avoided naming slavery directly. Monday’s apology repeats that pattern: sorrow without specificity, regret without restitution.

The question now is unavoidable:

If the Church can acknowledge its role in creating the global system of racial slavery, why does it refuse to repair the damage?

What does an apology mean to the descendants of enslaved people when the institution responsible for their ancestors’ suffering still holds the wealth accumulated through that exploitation?

How long will the Vatican ask for forgiveness while declining to return what was stolen?

Until the Church confronts these questions with concrete action — financial, structural, and global — its apologies will continue to fall on ears that have heard centuries of sorrow but have yet to see righteousness.

New study: Young Blacks and Latinos lack access to wealth-building tools - Millennials, Gen Z most affected

By Charlene Crowell | Senior Fellow Center for Responsible Lending (CRL)

(FINANCE) - As much of the nation continues to grapple with rising costs that are outpacing wage gains, new research affirms that younger, more diverse generations are caught in a financial marketplace built for yesteryear not today.

Ambition Without Access, a newly released study by the Julian Bond Institute (JBI), an initiative of the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL), is the first nationally representative look at how wealth and financial aspirations differ across race and generations particularly for Blacks and Latinos.

“Young Blacks and Hispanics want to own homes, want to start businesses, want to retire comfortably, and want to leave something for their children — at rates that either match or exceed their white peers,” states the study. “They are optimistic. They are financially motivated. And they are determined.”

The JBI 2050 Survey, conducted in cooperation with NORC at the University of Chicago, surveyed white, Black, Hispanic, and Asian Americans across Gen Z (age 18-28), Millennial (29-44), Gen X (45-60), and Boomer (61-79) age groups.

Among its findings:

•86% of Americans across every race and generation say homeownership was a financial goal when they became financially independent — yet only 23% of Black Millennials who aspired to homeownership have achieved it, compared to 51% of white Millennials.

•67% of Black Gen Z and 55% of Hispanic Gen Z aspire to own a business — a rate significantly higher than the 34% of white Gen Z who share that goal.

•77% of Black Gen Z and 70% of Hispanic Gen Z aspire to build an inheritance to pass on, even though only 18% and 20% respectively expect to receive one themselves —compared to 33% of white and 38% of Asian Gen Z who anticipate getting one.

•46% of Black Millennials are optimistic about their household’s financial future — higher than the 31% of white Millennials — despite having fewer financial resources, lower savings, and significantly less family financial support.

“The gap between financial aspiration and achievement for young and minority consumers is not a matter of motivation. It is a matter of structural access — to family financial resources, affordable credit, adequate income, and the knowledge to navigate a system not designed with these communities in mind. As the United States moves toward a majority-minority future, closing these gaps is not just a moral imperative — it is an economic one,” said Sara Weiss, executive director of JBI and a report co-author.

But homeownership, long considered the foundation for building family wealth, remains out of reach for many younger consumers.

According to the National Association of Realtors, the nation’s average price to purchase an existing home

this past April was \$417,700. Regionally, the lowest priced home purchases were found either in the Midwest at \$324,500, or the South at \$366,600. The nation’s highest prices homes at \$619,600 were in the West and \$510,800 in the Northeast.

Home affordability was also the focus of a recent New York Times editorial citing the vast differences in the ratio between home prices and median household income. In 1950, the median home price in the United States was \$7,400 — only 2.5 times the median annual household income. “But that ratio began surging in the 2000s. Today the median home costs almost five times the median household income” states the editorial.

Conventional mortgages, the most affordable and sustainable over the 30-year length of most loans, have the advantage of fixed interest rates, but they require a 20 percent down payment to access the lowest rates available. Few young consumers can independently afford down payments ranging from \$64,900 to \$123,920. Smaller down payments may be available but come with higher monthly payments that include mortgage insurance.

For JBI and CRL, timely and decisive actions geared towards practical solutions are essential to overcome today’s financial roadblocks.

“The Gen Z and Millennial respondents in this survey are in the formative years when the foundation for wealth is either built or destroyed,” states the study. “The consequences of homeownership decisions, saving habits, and credit trajectories being established right now will compound themselves for decades...Thus, the time for structural reform is not after the demographic transition occurs. It is both before and during it.”

Secondly, according to the JBI study, solutions to today’s homeownership challenges must incorporate initiatives for consumers at every stage of life:

“Solutions lie in enacting initiatives to fund downpayment assistance at scale for first generation homebuyers, reforming mortgage policy to expand access, increased funding of small business support and capital access programs in communities of color, uniform adoption of state-sponsored retirement programs that allow individuals access to retirement plans when their employers do not provide them, and a commitment to modernize consumer protections so that they align with the present fintech era. Doing so will prepare us for the America that is coming; failing to do so will leave us stuck in the America that has been.”

JBI designs community-informed research that elevates the financial needs, challenges, and opportunities of our increasingly diverse nation to help financial institutions, policymakers and academia effectively design an inclusive financial market for the future.

Just as intentional policies and practices left out communities of color from wealth-building, now is the time to correct course by forging intentional inclusion.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Travis County Healthcare District d/b/a Central Health
1111 E. Cesar Chavez Street
Austin, TX 78702

Request for Qualifications (RFQ) 2605-002 Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Services for Cameron Center
Due Date: June 12, 2026 by 2:00 PM CT

Central Health is seeking Statements of Qualifications from highly qualified Professional A/E firms to provide comprehensive professional design of a Medical Respite and Community Services Campus located at 7901 Cameron Road in Austin, Texas 78754. The 4.38-acre site houses three buildings totaling approximately 122,000 square feet. The solicitation package can be downloaded from:
<https://www.bidnetdirect.com/texas/traviscountyhealthcaredistrictdbacentralhealth>, OR
<https://www.txsmartbuy.gov/esbd/2605-002>

Travis County Healthcare District d/b/a Central Health
1111 E. Cesar Chavez Street
Austin, TX 78702

Request for Qualifications (RFQ) 2605-001 AI-Powered Predictive Analytics & Clinical Decision Support Platform for Emergency Department Utilization and Preventable Readmissions Reduction
Due Date: 06/08/2026 by 2:00 PM CT

Central Health is issuing this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to identify and pre-qualify the most competent and experienced firm(s) to design, implement, and support an AI-Powered Predictive Analytics & Clinical Decision Support (CDS) Platform (the “AI Solution”) that can support the reduction of avoidable Emergency Department utilization and preventable inpatient admissions and readmissions across its:

- Medical Access Program (MAP)
- MAP Basic
- Sendero Health Plans
- Affiliated safety-net populations

Respondents are encouraged to submit Qualification Statements that reflect their areas of expertise and demonstrated capabilities. Central Health recognizes that some Respondents may not have experience across all components of the Scope of Work and welcomes submissions that address discrete or specialized portions of the services described herein.

The solicitation package can be downloaded from:
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OR <http://www.centralhealth.net/finance/purchasing>
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Hip-Hop Legend Rob Base (Robert Ginyard), 1967–2026, Passes

By Villager staff

(HIP-HOP) - Rob Base, the Harlem-born hip-hop pioneer whose voice helped define an era and whose music moved generations, died on May 22, 2026, at the age of 59 after a private battle with cancer.

A foundational figure in late 1980s hip-hop, Base rose to international fame as one half of **Rob Base & DJ E Z Rock**, the duo behind the 1988 smash **"It Takes Two,"** a track that not only became one of the most recognizable party anthems in music history but also helped propel hip-hop into the mainstream. The single peaked at No. 3 on the Billboard Hot Dance/Club Songs chart and later earned platinum certification, cementing its place as a cultural touchstone.

Born **Robert Ginyard** in Harlem, Base met his future collaborator Rodney "DJ E Z Rock" Bryce in grade school. Their partnership—rooted in neighborhood friendship and a shared love of the emerging hip-hop sound—produced not only "It Takes Two" but also enduring tracks such as **"Joy and Pain"** and **"Get on the Dance Floor."** Their music became



Robert Ginyard

a soundtrack for clubs, block parties, and radio stations across the country, influencing artists from Snoop Dogg to the Black Eyed Peas.

Base's death was announced in a statement on his official Instagram account, which noted that he passed away peacefully, surrounded by family. The message honored him as a **loving father, family man, friend, and creative force** whose impact "will never be forgotten." Fans and fellow artists flooded social media with tributes, remembering his generosity, his energy, and the joy his music brought to millions.

Just days before his passing, Base celebrated his 59th birthday with a message of gratitude: "God thank you for allowing me to see another year." That final post has since become a gathering place for grief, remembrance, and celebration of a life that shaped the sound of a generation.

Rob Base's legacy is one of innovation, rhythm, and cultural influence. His voice—instantly recognizable, endlessly sampled, and forever tied to the golden era of hip-hop—will continue to echo in clubs, concerts, films, and memories for decades to come.

He is survived by his family, his fans, and a musical legacy that changed the course of hip-hop.

Crockett's Quiet Power Move Puts Talarico on Notice

By Villager staff

(VILLAGER) - The latest Democratic primary in North Texas didn't just settle a congressional nomination—it reopened a wound the party has tried, and failed, to stitch shut. When voters in Texas's 32nd Congressional District chose Colin Allred over incumbent Julie Johnson, they also handed U.S. Rep. Jasmine Crockett a symbolic victory over State Rep. James Talarico, her former Senate rival whose relationship with Black voters remains strained after a bruising primary season. Allred was Crockett's pick; Johnson was Talarico's. And when Crockett's FIRE PAC celebrated Allred's win, it was clear the political reckoning between these two Democrats is far from over.

Their rift began in the Senate primary, when Talarico—who is white—was accused of calling Allred a "mediocre Black man," a charge he denied but one Crockett immediately recognized as tapping into a deeper anxiety among Black Texans about what is said behind closed doors. That moment didn't just sour a race; it exposed a fault line in a party that depends on Black voters, especially Black



women, while too often sidelining them from leadership. Crockett named that fear plainly, and many voters heard her.

Strategists quoted in the story insist the Allred-Johnson race wasn't simply a rematch of the Crockett-Talarico feud, pointing instead to long standing political relationships and mid cycle redistricting that forced the contest. But optics matter in politics, and the optics here are unmistakable: Crockett's influence with Black Texans remains strong, while Talarico is still working to repair trust with the very voters he now needs most.

That urgency is real. Talarico is the Democratic nominee for U.S. Senate, facing Trump aligned Republican Ken Paxton in November. If Democrats want to break a 30 year losing streak in statewide

political consultant Zoe Cadore warns that lingering resentment among Black voters—especially Black women who feel the party leans on their labor but rarely elevates their leadership—could cost Democrats dearly if not addressed head on.

Talarico has begun outreach: campaigning with Barack Obama, speaking at an HBCU commencement, and unveiling a plan to address Black maternal mortality. But outreach is not the same as reconciliation. Crockett has not endorsed him, and her silence speaks loudly in a state where Black voters are the largest such population in the country.

If Democrats want to flip Texas, they must confront the truth this race exposed: unity cannot be demanded—it must be earned.



Travis County Health and Human Services
P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767
(512) 854-3460 Fax (512) 854-7140

TRAVIS COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)
HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM (HOME)

Invitation to Comment on Substantial Amendments to the
PY24-PY28 ConPlan and PY24 Action Plan and PY25 Action Plan

Travis County receives federal funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), including Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds, to benefit low- to moderate-income residents within the Travis County CDBG/HOME service area.

Travis County is proposing a Substantial Amendment to the PY24-PY28 Consolidated Plan, the PY24 Action Plan, and the PY25 Action Plan. The amendment includes incorporating Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding as required per 24 CFR 576.200(b); expanding program priorities to allow for a broader range of eligible activities that address current community needs; removing an infeasible CDBG project and reallocating those funds in accordance with HUD regulations and program requirements; and updating a PY25 infrastructure project to shift funding from design and engineering to construction based on the revised scope.

In accordance with Sections IV.B.6 and IV.C.7 of the Travis County Citizen Participation Plan, a substantial amendment is required when an unforeseen need arises or when funds are reallocated to a different project type or in an amount exceeding \$24,999. This process includes a public notice published at least fourteen (14) days before the start of the public comment period, a 30-day public comment period, and a public hearing. All public comments will be documented and considered prior to final approval by the Travis County Commissioners Court.

COMMENT PERIOD AND DRAFT DOCUMENT

Comments will be accepted for 30 days **beginning June 17, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. and ending July 20, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.** Beginning June 17, 2026, the draft Substantial Amendment to the PY24-PY28 Consolidated Plan and PY24 Action Plan, along with a summary, will be available for public review and download at: <https://www.traviscountytx.gov/health-human-services/cdbg>, and will also be available for review at the six Travis County Community Centers listed below:

Travis County Community Center at Del Valle	3518-D FM South 973, Del Valle, TX 78617
Travis County Community Center at Pflugerville	15822 Foothills Farm Loop, Bldg. D, Pflugerville, TX 78660
Travis County Community Center at Oak Hill	8656-A Hwy 71 W., Suite A, Austin, TX 78735
Travis County Community Center at Jonestown	18649 FM 1431, Jonestown, TX 78645
Travis County Community Center at Manor	600 W. Carrie Manor, Manor, TX 78653
Travis County Community Center at Central Austin	5325 Airport Boulevard, Austin, Texas 78751

PUBLIC HEARING

The public may provide comments by participating in a Public Hearing scheduled for **Tuesday, July 14, 2026**, during a regular Travis County Commissioners Court session, which typically begins at approximately 9:00 a.m., at the Travis County Commissioners Courtroom, 700 Lavaca St., First Floor, Austin, Texas 78701. Members of the public who wish to participate may appear in person or register in advance to speak remotely. Registration instructions, including deadlines, are available on the Commissioners Court webpage: <https://www.traviscountytx.gov/commissioners-court>. The public may view the public hearing online at: <https://travisctx.civicclerk.com/web/home.aspx>. The link will be active at the time the Commissioners Court session begins.

MAILING COMMENTS

The public may also submit comments by mail or email to: CDBG/HOME Program, Travis County HHS, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, TX 78767; cdbg@traviscountytx.gov.

Travis County is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Please call 512-854-3460 for assistance. To request that an American Sign Language or Spanish interpreter be present at the public hearing, please contact CDBG staff at least five business days in advance.



Travis County Health and Human Services
P.O. Box 1748, Austin, Texas 78767
(512) 854-3460 Fax (512) 854-7140

TRAVIS COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)
HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM (HOME)

Invitation to Comment on the PY26 Action Plan

Travis County is eligible to receive an estimated \$1,787,382 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and an estimated \$567,775.74 in HOME Investment Partnerships Program ("HOME") funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to benefit Travis County low- to moderate-income residents who live in the unincorporated areas of the county or anywhere in Bee Cave, Creedmoor, Lago Vista, Lakeway, Manor, San Leanna, Sunset Valley, Webberville, and West Lake Hills. The funds are for Program Year 2026 (PY26), October 1, 2026 to September 30, 2027. An Annual Action Plan has been drafted detailing how the funds will be spent in PY26.

You can comment on the proposed PY26 Action Plan by attending the public hearing or by sending your comments in writing via postal mail or e-mail.

COMMENT PERIOD AND DRAFT DOCUMENT

Comments will be accepted for 30 days **beginning June 17, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. and ending July 20, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.** Beginning June 17, 2026, a draft of the proposed Action Plan and a related summary will be available for download on the Travis County CDBG webpage at <https://www.traviscountytx.gov/health-human-services/cdbg> or available for review at any of the six Travis County Community Centers listed below:

Travis County Community Center at Del Valle	3518-D FM South 973, Del Valle, TX 78617
Travis County Community Center at Pflugerville	15822 Foothills Farm Loop, Bldg. D, Pflugerville, TX 78660
Travis County Community Center at Oak Hill	8656-A Hwy 71 W., Suite A, Austin, TX 78735
Travis County Community Center at Jonestown	18649 FM 1431, Jonestown, TX 78645
Travis County Community Center at Manor	600 W. Carrie Manor, Manor, TX 78653
Travis County Community Center at Central Austin	5325 Airport Boulevard, Austin, Texas 78751

PUBLIC HEARING

The public can provide their comments by participating in a Public Hearing scheduled for **Tuesday, July 14, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.** at Travis County Commissioners Courtroom, 700 Lavaca St., First Floor, Austin, Texas 78701. Members of the public who wish to participate may appear in person or register in advance to speak remotely. The online registration portal will be open from 8:00 p.m. two nights before the meeting until 8:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting. Information and links to the registration form are available on the Commissioners Court webpage at: <https://www.traviscountytx.gov/commissioners-court>. The public can view the public hearing session online via a link that will be active by 9:00 a.m. on the day of the public hearing, by clicking on the Commissioners Court Voting Session link for the public hearing date at: <https://travisctx.civicclerk.com/web/home.aspx>.

MAILING YOUR COMMENTS

The public can also mail their comments to: CDBG Program, Travis County, HHS, P.O. Box 1748, Austin, TX 78767 or e-mail them to the CDBG program at: cdbg@traviscountytx.gov

Travis County is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request. Please call 512-854-3460 for assistance. To request that an American Sign Language or Spanish interpreter be present at the public hearing, please contact CDBG staff at least five business days in advance.