

# HOUSTON WOMEN'S COMMISSION FACT SHEET

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## **What is the purpose of the Houston Women's Commission?**

The commission will advance equality and equity for women in the City of Houston by identifying and addressing disparities in healthcare, employment, safety and security across communities and industries, both in Houston's public and private sector. The commission will develop and propose recommendations, identify gaps in information that need further study, and advise City leaders on how to improve the quality of life for women throughout Houston.

This inaugural year's charge is to address the disparities that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated for women in the region in areas including job loss, health care and leave coverage, child-care needs, and wage disparities.

## **Who serves on the Houston Women's Commission?**

The twenty-five members being considered represent a diverse cross-section of Houston and are broadly representative of the community at large with regard to race, ethnicity, age, socioeconomic status, LGBT+ status, and industry sectors including leaders from energy, tech, healthcare, service industry, education, both public and private sectors, to address women's issues holistically.

## **How will the Women's Commission function?**

The Houston Women's Commission will serve as a permanent advisory board to the Mayor and City Council as they make decisions related to the well-being and advancement of women and their families. The commission will meet quarterly, with subcommittees meeting more frequently, and work closely with City departments that focus on healthcare, wage inequality and employment, and safety and security.

The commission will advise and produce recommendations annually to the Mayor and Council to address disparities, as well as identify gaps in information that need further study. They will also provide feedback regarding prospective policy to the mayor and city council and will generate policy proposals bringing attention of the mayor and city council issues impacting women in Houston. Commission members will also help publicize City-led opportunities and programs benefiting women and their families in their communities.