

# MATT MURPHY



FOR  
HOUSTON CITY COUNCIL  
AT LARGE POSITION 4

## CAMPAIGN OF NOW

### MAKE HOUSTON BETTER & RESTORE VISION PLAN

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## Bio – Military Man, Family Man, Business & Community Leader

Military man, family man, business and civic leader, Matt Murphy is a fourth generation Houstonian. A political outsider, Matt is a pro-family fiscal conservative with a proven track record of success. He is a fighter who stands on principle, committed to values of responsibility, accountability and community.



Determined to make an ongoing, proactive impact in Houston, Matt has announced his candidacy for Houston City Council At Large 4. His goal is to go beyond the typical promises of career politicians and focus on immediate and lasting results. He is running a “Campaign of Now,” precisely to unite and strengthen Houston’s communities throughout his time as a candidate.

Raised in the small town of Edgewood, Texas, Matt’s parents taught him early about *civic-minded community leadership*. The son of a firefighter and school teacher, Matt spent his summers in Houston at his grandmother’s side. He learned first-hand the positive impact a strong community can have on raising a child. Living the values taught by his family, Matt chose to serve our country in the U.S. Navy as a damage control fire fighter, and assisted in the decommission of several naval vessels.

Matt and his loving wife Rachel, a dietitian at MD Anderson Cancer Research Hospital, currently reside with their courageous young son Shawn in the diverse Houston neighborhood of Riverside Terrace, where they purchased and restored an historic home.

After serving in the military, Matt played professional golf until retiring in 2007. Now, as a certified fire protection engineer, Matt helps protect lives & property. He also served as a neighborhood precinct chair, and is actively working to restore the vision of Houston’s founders of equality & prosperity for all.

In 2009, Matt and Rachel were blessed with their only child, Shawn. Sadly, he was born with rare birth defects that demanded three life-threatening surgeries during his first year of life. Presented with the option of terminating the pregnancy early on, Matt and Rachel resoundingly chose life. Inspired by his son’s resilience and determination, Matt committed to ensuring other families would not have to go through similar experiences alone. Partnering with Texas Children’s Hospital, he started the Shawn’s Anomaly awareness campaign, providing education, hope & help.



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Called to continue these efforts, Matt documented his transformative journey from an overweight smoker to an Ironman Triathlete. Uniting a strong, diverse group of fellow citizens, Matt's efforts inspired others, garnered international recognition, and raised life-saving donations. Ultimately, Matt became a two-time Ironman Triathlete, and carried a flag draped with names of children affected by birth defects the entire 26.2 mile run. Today, Shawn is a happy and healthy 6 year old.

Matt's commitment to community is further seen in his activism. He served as the chairman of a local neighborhood crime watch which, under his leadership, grew from four to four thousand homes in its first year. Serving on several additional city government committees, Matt founded another successful grassroots movement, called "Right To Fly", and led the fight to restore free market principles and repeal the federal Wright Amendment in the US Congress. Matt was honored for his achievements in community leadership by Texas House Resolution 2132 in 2005.



Continuing his mission to lead by example and inspire communities to join in, Matt produced the short film documentary, *Last Seat at the Dome*, aiding efforts to preserve the Astrodome. Winning six international film festival awards, Matt was sought out by the Urban Land Institute, and aided County Judge Ed Emmett with the planning of redevelopment proposals that will enable a new generation to experience the "8<sup>th</sup> Wonder of the World" as an economically viable public park.

Matt has a strong record of uniting diverse communities through his proven "Know Your Neighbor" initiative, which is a centerpiece of his city council campaign. This community strengthening program guarantees lasting victory for citizens all across Houston, bringing neighbors together and reinforcing bonds. Matt will walk hand-in-hand with citizen leaders across every neighborhood. When neighbors know each other, we build up stronger, safer and more prosperous communities across our great city.



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## Organization Affiliations

- Leadership Houston-Class XXXIII
- Regional Director of Parent Advisory Group, National Birth Defects Prevention Network
- Member, The National Society of Leadership and Success, Sigma Alpha Pi
- Member, Society of Fire Protection Engineers
- Member, National Fire Protection Association
- Member, National Institute of Certified Engineering Technologies
- Member, Ecclesia Houston Church



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## Make Houston Better – Policy Platform

### *Responsibility – Balance the Budget, Make Pensions Work & Restore Infrastructure*

- Balance The Budget
  - Reduce deficit & debt, audit charter & budget & cut spending & departments as required.
  - Eliminate unfunded liabilities for a financially sustainable Houston for future generations.
  - Maintain transparent funding & enforce revenue stream allocation; e.g. drainage & roads
- Make Pensions Work
  - Reign in unfunded liabilities (currently \$5.3 B) & free up resources to hire more employees.
  - Keep past promises, but renegotiate with new workers to reflect what taxpayers can afford.
  - Implement defined contribution plans & ensure sustainability for future workers & taxpayers.
- Restore Infrastructure
  - Fix the streets, not just the potholes & invest in basic upkeep rather than pet projects.
  - Demand transparency & accountability in doling out contracts & prioritize blighted areas.
  - Increase storm preparedness & responsibly invest in drainage, as has been promised.

### *Accountability – Keep our promises, Include local input & Let voters decide*

- Keep Our Promises
  - Prioritize funding for core government services first.
  - Allocate revenues as specified, end diversions to pet projects & stop misleading practices.
  - Uphold pension agreements with current municipal employees, firefighters & police officers.
- Include Local Input
  - Maintain relationships with state legislators & lobby for local control of municipal pensions.
  - Create transparent processes for TIRZ's & reign in secret deals with special interests.
  - Engage communities from the bottom up & oppose top down divisive social agendas.

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- Let Voters Decide

- Promote clearly worded charter amendments to ensure integrity of ballot initiatives.
- Allocate taxpayer funds honestly, with more checks & balances & community input.
- Improve our democratic processes & restore a proper balance of power in Houston.

## **Community – Know Your Neighbor, Unify Local Leaders & Unleash Opportunity**

- Know Your Neighbor

- Unite & strengthen communities by knocking on doors & getting to know one another.
- Make a difference in Houston starting today with a mentality of a “Campaign of Now”.
- Invest in local communities to bring people together & be a catalyst for lasting change.

- Unify Local Leaders

- Focus on issues that unite all Houstonians rather than divisive social agendas.
- Put practical issues first: crime reduction, fixing the streets, crafting a sustainable budget.
- Invest in additional police officers to improve public safety via savings from pension reform.

- Unleash Opportunity

- Repeal onerous municipal regulations that crush entrepreneurial & charitable pursuits.
- Keep TIRZs accountable & encourage public engagement to restore focus on blighted areas.
- Bring business leaders together with the community in economic development projects.
- Develop a responsible plan to potentially refund Renew Houston “rain tax” revenues.

## **2020 Restore Vision – Plan**

Candidates shouldn't have to wait to get elected to start making a difference and fulfill promises. That's why our “Campaign of Now” is making Houston better today. When you invest in our campaign, you invest in our communities (our “Know Your Neighbor” initiative).

Win or lose our city will be stronger and more united. Any serious candidate should commit to reading the city charter & analyzing the budget. I am actively listening to constituents & developing a comprehensive, bottom up plan.

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