



For Immediate Release

August 19, 2019

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Bill King marks Harvey anniversary with flood mitigation plan

HOUSTON -Standing in front of a Meyerland home that has been vacant since Hurricane Harvey, Mayoral candidate Bill King unveiled his comprehensive, seven-point plan to reduce future flooding in Houston.

"It has been two years since Harvey and the current administration at city hall concedes we are no better prepared for the next big storm," said King. "That is inexcusable. It is not a matter of if, but when, there will be more flooding. We must not let another two years go by without any progress toward reducing flood risk for Houstonians."

The seven components of King's plan are:

1. Stop the diversion of city drainage fees to other uses
2. Improve conveyance and create more detention
3. Ramp up purchases of vacant land for green space and detention and increase funding for buyouts of flooded properties
4. Build higher but be smart about it
5. Prepare a detailed plan for flood recovery and response
6. Advocate for more regional cooperation, including possible creation of a regional flood control authority
7. Prioritize projects in flood prone areas

After being forced to evacuate his childhood home in Kemah ahead of Hurricane Carla and then being flooded twice as an adult, King is acutely aware of the stress and disruption of having to deal with a flooded home. He is also considered an expert in the field, having been appointed by Governor Rick Perry to commissions that studied the aftermaths of Hurricanes Rita and Ike and chairing a regional task force that assisted in re-writing the evacuation plans for the Houston region. He has been received the outstanding achievement award from the National Hurricane Association and Perry issued a special proclamation commending him for his work.

"The dynamics of flooding are unique and it is impossible to understand those dynamics without putting on your jeans and boots and getting out and walking the ditches, crawling down in storm sewers, and getting firsthand accounts of what happened during floods," said King. "There are no easy answers. There is no one solution. It will require a multi-phased approach and consistent, disciplined attention to the problem over many years."

King is the only candidate to put forth any sort of plan to mitigate flooding in Houston.

“I am the only candidate in this race who understands the problems and has concrete solutions,” said King. “The next time Houston floods we won’t tell our first responders to stay home. There won’t be questions about why no one was warned before the dams were opened. The city fleet won’t be left in garages that flood. And thousands of Houstonians won’t be waiting two years or more for financial assistance. Houston simply cannot afford another four years of the current administration’s lack of planning.”

King’s complete flood mitigation plan is available [here](#).

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