

County Commissioner Precinct 2

Question	Adrian Garcia	Richard Vega
	Democrat (incumbent)	Republican
		
	Adrian Garcia is a former Harris County Sheriff, Houston City Council member, and Houston police officer.	Richard Vega is a pastor and U.S. Army veteran who has worked with local law-enforcement agencies
1. Denver Harbor recently went without a neighborhood early-voting location. Would you support using the Denver Harbor Multi-Service Center as an early-voting site?	Yes. And as the Commissioner, I have fought for this. We need to do everything we can to make voting safe and accessible.	Yes. I support restoring an early-voting location in the Denver Harbor community, including consideration of the Denver Harbor Multi-Service Center. However, the selection of early-voting sites is the responsibility of the Harris County Clerk's Office, which conducts a thorough assessment to ensure each location meets accessibility, technology, power, security, and operational requirements. If the Multi-Service Center meets those standards, I would strongly support its designation as an early-voting site, so Denver Harbor residents have convenient access to the ballot box.

2. Do you support tactics where armed and masked federal agents are involved in conducting street stops, vehicle stops, and neighborhood sweeps?	No. ICE agents should be subject to all of the same regulations and protocols that local officers operate under: unmasked, in marked vehicles, utilizing body cameras, and solely focused on safety threats.	I support enforcing the laws as they are written. Immigration enforcement is primarily a federal responsibility, while the role of county government is to comply with applicable state and federal laws and ensure public safety. Harris County should cooperate with law enforcement partners as required by law, while using county resources responsibly and within their legal authority. If changes are needed to immigration policy or the scope of local cooperation with ICE, those decisions belong with state and federal lawmakers, not the Harris County Commissioners Court.
3. Regarding local cooperation with federal immigration enforcement: a. Should local police, constables, or other county and city resources assist ICE in arresting people who have no violent criminal record?	I do not support collaboration beyond what is legally required or required to maintain public safety. I want local police, deputies and officers to keep the community safe from violence and crimes committed locally. The terror being inflicted by the federal government right now makes even those of us who are U.S. citizens feel less safe and unwilling to report crime.	Texas law already requires local cooperation with federal immigration enforcement in certain circumstances, so county government cannot ignore that. As County Commissioner, my job is to ensure Harris County complies with state and federal law, uses county resources responsibly, and remains focused on public safety. That does not mean county government should go looking for ways to expand its role beyond what the law requires, especially for people with no violent criminal record. If Texans want a different standard, that change has to come from the Legislature.
b. Should local cooperation with ICE require a judicial warrant?	We were told only the most dangerous and violent people would be sought. Administrative warrants are being used to target Houstonians who contribute to our economy and I don't support that.	Local cooperation with ICE should follow the Constitution and the law. If a judicial warrant is required, then it should be required. County government should not cut corners on constitutional protections, nor should it make up its own rules. As County Commissioner, my responsibility is to ensure county policies comply with Texas law, federal law, and court rulings while protecting public safety and taxpayer resources.

4. Should undocumented immigrants without serious criminal records be entitled to a prompt bond hearing before an immigration judge? Why or why not?	Yes. Every resident in Harris County should be entitled to due process.	Yes. People should get a prompt bond hearing before an immigration judge, especially if they do not have a serious criminal record. Due process matters, and detention should not be automatic or indefinite without timely review. A bond hearing lets a judge decide whether someone is a flight risk or a danger to the community based on the facts, not assumptions. That protects basic fairness while still allowing the system to detain people who genuinely pose a public safety threat. Law enforcement and due process are not opposites; in a constitutional system, they are supposed to work together.
5. Would you support requiring immigration agents to display visible identification, wear body cameras, avoid masks except in documented dangerous situations, and provide written justification for stops and arrests?	Yes. As with local law enforcement, ICE should be required to follow policing protocol that keeps officers and the public safe, and to not violate constitutional rights.	a) Yes. b) I support allowing agents to wear masks when safety risks justify it. Many of these operations involve dangerous criminals, including cartel-linked offenders and others tied to serious organized threats. It only takes one video or photo online to expose an agent's identity and put that agent and their family at risk. But safety cannot come at the expense of accountability. There should still be clear internal identification, visible agency markings when possible, and proper oversight. We can protect the people enforcing the law without giving up transparency or public trust. c) Yes. When stops or arrests occur, there should be written documentation showing the legal basis for the action and allowing proper review through the appropriate channels. That protects the integrity of the process, supports accountability, and helps reassure the public that government authority is being exercised lawfully and professionally. Good enforcement is not weakened by documentation. It is strengthened by it

6. Do you support or oppose the following: a. Racial Profiling in Immigration Enforcement	Oppose	Oppose. Racial profiling is wrong, period. Enforcement should be based on facts, evidence, and lawful conduct - not race or ethnicity. When government relies on profiling, it undermines trust, weakens legitimate enforcement, and puts agencies on the wrong side of the law. People should be judged by their actions, not by how they look or where their family came from. Fair enforcement is not weak enforcement. It is the only kind that can be defended honestly and upheld consistently
b. Separating parents from children during enforcement actions	Oppose	Support, when necessary for safety and identification. If a parent is being taken into custody, a temporary separation may be necessary, just as it would be in other law enforcement situations. The first priority should be the child's safety, welfare, and proper identification. Officers cannot assume every adult with a child is that child's parent or legal guardian, especially given the realities of trafficking and exploitation. Any separation should be handled carefully, lawfully, and only for as long as needed to protect the child and verify the facts.
c. Large-scale detention of immigrants without criminal records	Oppose	Large-scale detention of immigrants without criminal records should not be the default approach in every case. Detention may be appropriate when the law requires it or when there are legitimate public safety or flight-risk concerns. But a one-size-fits-all approach is not the best use of resources. We need an immigration system that enforces the law, processes cases efficiently, and focuses detention where it is truly necessary.

7. Do you support continuing DACA protections? Should DACA recipients have a path to permanent legal status?	Yes to both.	Yes. I support continuing DACA protections, and I support a path to permanent legal status for DACA recipients. These are individuals who grew up here, built their lives here, and in many cases know no other home. A legal, orderly solution recognizes that reality while still respecting the rule of law. It should be handled through Congress and the legal process, not through uncertainty year after year. DACA recipients should have a path to permanent legal status. Many were brought to this country as children, grew up here, and have built their lives through education, work, and family. Providing a lawful, permanent solution would bring stability, reduce uncertainty, and recognize the reality of their circumstances while still respecting the importance of our immigration laws and legal process. Congress should address this issue directly and establish a clear, lasting solution.
8. Do you believe Denver Harbor currently receives adequate police and constable coverage? What specific steps would you take to increase coverage of the neighborhood?	Denver Harbor is under the jurisdiction of the City of Houston and is protected by the Houston Police Department, and as a county official, I cannot speak for them, but there is always room for more coverage. Better lighting, safer streets and sidewalks, and using resources like the county's HART program, which frees up officers to focus on violent crime, also contribute to improving safety. Also, when I created the Violent Persons (VIPER) Task Force, it was given countywide jurisdiction and coordinated with the constables. Constable Precinct 6 was given additional resources to go after those violent offenders with active felony warrants.	No. Denver Harbor does not currently receive the level of police and constable coverage residents deserve. Violent crime has increased. One specific step I would take is improving coordination between HPD and the Harris County Constables, so coverage is more consistent, visible, and responsive. Public safety works best when agencies communicate, share information, and deploy resources strategically instead of working in silos. Residents should not have to wonder whether their neighborhood is being overlooked. They deserve a stronger law enforcement presence, faster response, and a clear commitment to keeping the community safe.

9. Investment companies are buying homes in Denver Harbor, pushing out current residents. What policies would you support to help long-term residents stay in the neighborhood and improve their homes?	My entire Revive2Thrive initiative is built around improving neighborhoods without inviting gentrification, which pushes the longtime fabric of these communities out because they no longer can afford to live there. Just in the past twelve months we have been able to fund 2 reconstructions in Denver Harbor that allow residents to stay and improve their homes. Across the precinct we are working to increase the supply of housing to keep costs down and to provide direct resources when we can.	Over the last two years, Harris County residents have been hit with a 10% property tax increase, placing a heavy burden on families, especially those who have lived in our communities for generations. I will continue fighting against excessive tax hikes and work to keep Harris County affordable so families can remain in their homes and preserve their legacy for future generations.
10. Denver Harbor residents pay county, state, and federal taxes. What would you do to bring more public money to improve the neighborhood?	The number one thing I can do in my role as commissioner is to ensure that our local mobility funds stay in Harris County. I pledge to continue to advocate for local money to stay local. I also work closely with our state senator, representatives and members of Congress to bring funding opportunities for much needed projects to areas like Denver Harbor. I will also continue to fight against unfunded mandates from the state of Texas that are taking bigger and bigger bites out of our budget.	I will work with the City of Houston, Harris County, and the State of Texas to identify and secure available resources that can improve infrastructure, public safety, parks, and neighborhood services. Within the scope of my office, I will advocate for investments that address the community's needs and create opportunities that improve residents' quality of life.
11. Many Denver Harbor students have attended schools outside the neighborhood for decades. We recently lost McReynolds Middle School and face the possibility of additional school closures. What would you do to protect and improve the schools serving Denver Harbor, and how would you ensure that residents have a meaningful voice in future school decisions?	I will keep fighting to return HISD to local control and end the state takeover of our school district(s). A locally elected school board should run our schools, not TEA.	While public schools are governed by their local school district, not the Harris County Commissioners Court, I believe families deserve a strong voice in decisions that affect their children and neighborhoods. As County Commissioner, I will work with community leaders, parents, and school officials to ensure residents are informed about proposed school closures and other major decisions before they are made. In my official capacity, I will advocate for transparency, meaningful public engagement, and open communication throughout the decision-making process. Strong neighborhood schools are vital to a community's long-term success, and I will support efforts that help preserve educational opportunities and strengthen the neighborhoods they serve.

12. Denver Harbor has one clinic, which is not equipped for emergencies, and lost its nearest hospital after Hurricane Harvey. Residents are now served by small emergency hospitals along I-10. a. Do you consider this level of emergency care adequate for a neighborhood of this size?	No, and my Access2Care program aims to address this issue. With more mobile health care pods, more Harris Health clinics, and other innovative health options coming, we are working on bringing relief to all of the health deserts within Precinct 2. I have made the idea of bringing a new hospital to Precinct 2 a major priority of mine, working closely with the Harris Health System and the University of Houston. Unfortunately, President Trump and Governor Abbott have eliminated funding that could have made this possible. Regardless, I will still continue to look for opportunities to make this a reality.	No. I do not believe Denver Harbor currently receives adequate Health Care coverage. I have many relatives who live in the Denver Harbor community, and they consistently share concerns
b. What would you do to improve access to emergency and hospital care?	We are working to bring more access to care in Precinct 2 neighborhoods by deploying mobile health care clinics, adding brick and mortar clinics over the long term, and working with our Hospital District to make sure it has the resources it needs.	Access to quality healthcare is essential for every family. As County Commissioner, I will work with Harris Health, local healthcare providers, community clinics, and nonprofit organizations to improve access to primary care, preventive services, mental health care, and senior services. I will support efforts to bring more healthcare resources to underserved communities like Denver Harbor, advocate for health education and preventive care programs, and work to ensure residents are aware of the services and benefits already available to them. By fostering partnerships and investing in community health initiatives, we can improve health outcomes and the overall quality of life for our residents.
13. What steps would you take to improve access to services and benefits for veterans?	I'm proud to have the only Veterans Services Office in a precinct office. In 2025 alone, we helped get veterans more than \$2 million worth of increases to VA benefits and back pay. In addition to helping vets get additional or overdue benefits, my Veterans Services Office provides rides to VA appointments, averaging more than one shuttle ride per day (440 for the year) for veterans to be able to get to doctor appointments.	As the only veteran in this race, I take this personally. I know what it means to fight for benefits and navigate systems that should be helping, not failing, the people they serve. I will review Harris County Precinct 2 Veterans Services, address the high turnover that has hurt continuity and trust, and work to restore the level of service veterans deserve. Veterans should not be suffering because a once-successful department lost focus. They earned timely help, competent support, and a county government that treats their service with action, not slogans.