

CIVICS

INFORMATIONAL TIPS

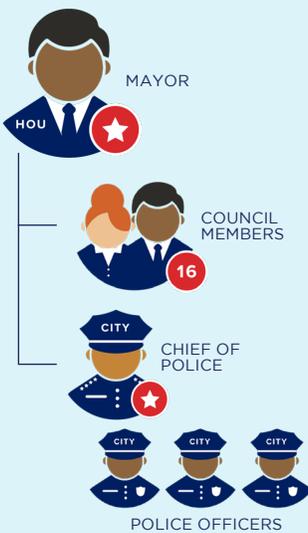


Understanding the roles and responsibilities of our city, county, and state officials will empower you to better advocate for the safety of yourself, your family, and your community. Crime prevention relies on all of us – read below to learn more about our local officials and how they work together to prevent crime in our city.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Some of our public officials are elected for terms of **2 or 4 years**, while others are appointed by an official that is already in office.
- The **City of Houston City Council** is comprised of **several Committees** including Economic Development, Quality of Life, and Public Safety & Homeland Security.
- **County governments** function as **administrative arms of the state**, providing services such as maintaining courthouses and jails, conducting elections, and issuing licenses. City governments focus on the operations of a particular municipality, including water, sewage, parks, and zoning.

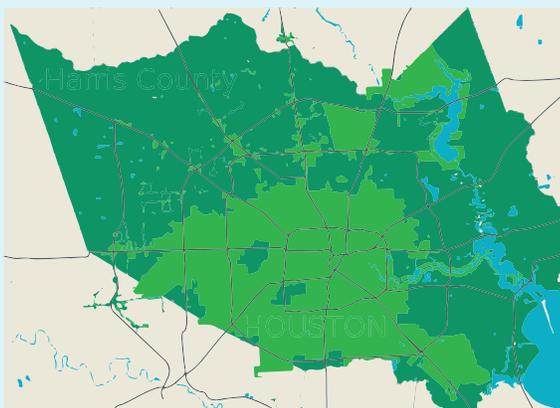
CITY



Mayor is **elected** to be the Executive Officer and Chief Administrator of the City, and is responsible for the general management of the City.

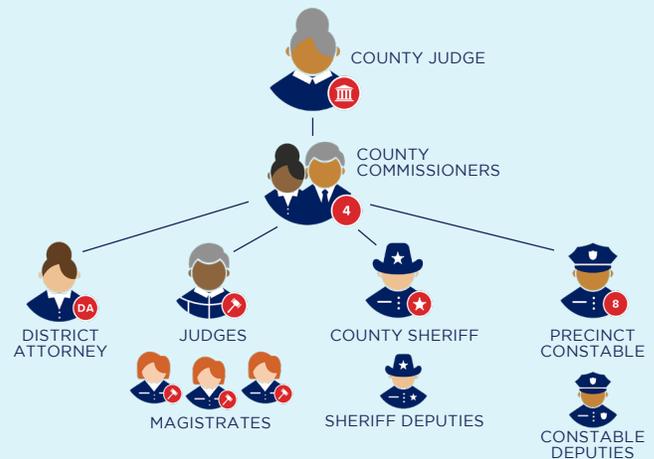
City Council Members are **elected** to manage the city budget, set policy, and manage other legislative functions of the city.

Chief of Police is **appointed** by the Mayor to oversee all operations of the city police department, administer law enforcement programs for the city, and review criminal cases.



■ Houston and other incorporated cities ■ Unincorporated Harris County

COUNTY



County Judge is **elected** to a 4-year term, during which they preside over Commissioners Court, direct the county's emergency response and oversee small civil matters.

Commissioners are **elected** to conduct business of the county and make up Commissioners Court.

District Attorney is chief prosecutor for the county and **elected** to represent the state and victims of violence in prosecuting criminal cases.

Court Judges are **elected** to preside over a civil or

criminal court and impose fines and imprisonment when appropriate.

Magistrates are judicial officers **appointed** by district court judges to dispose of minor criminal offenses or handle preliminary proceedings.

Sheriff is **elected** to act as conservator of the peace, enforce court orders, and serve warrants. Also manages the county jail.

Constables are **elected** as peace officers and the chief process server of the justice court.