

COMMUNITYCONNECT

COVID 19 Series: Voting During a Pandemic

Thursday, October 22, 2020 | 3 pm

Panelists' Bios



Chris Hollins
Harris County Clerk

Chris Hollins, an attorney and fourth-generation Houstonian, is the County Clerk of Harris County, Texas. Chris has the honor of serving as the first Black County Clerk in Harris County's history. Before taking office, Chris was the principal attorney at Hollins Law Group PLLC. He has stepped away from private practice to dedicate his full attention to the residents of Harris County and the duties of this office.

Chris developed a commitment to public service through the selfless example of his parents and their devotion for improving the lives of others. His father, George, served for 34 years in the Houston Police Department, and his mother, Christie, managed a career as a secretary while raising Chris, his two sisters, and more than 20 young foster children.

Before transitioning into private practice, Chris developed a strong strategic skillset by working at some of the world's most distinguished professional service firms. As a management consultant, he flourished in applying analytics and organizational best practices to transform public safety, defense, and security agencies. He also served in the White House Office of Presidential Personnel.

Chris holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with Phi Beta Kappa honors from Morehouse College. Chris also completed a joint program with Yale Law School and Harvard Business School, earning both his Juris Doctor and Master of Business Administration degrees. Today, Chris is admitted to the State Bar of Texas and Federal Courts for the Southern District of Texas. Chris has served on numerous nonprofit boards and has been a Big Brother for over a decade.

Chris has made it a priority to maintain the high level of service that the County Clerk's Office provides to the people and businesses of Harris County. He is also committed to ensuring that residents of Harris County can exercise their Constitutional right to vote safely, conveniently, and with the peace of mind that their vote will be counted. Within weeks of taking office, Chris implemented the S.A.F.E. Elections Plan, a robust set of 23 initiatives to ensure that Harris County's July and November elections would be safe, secure, accessible, fair and efficient.

Chris resides in Houston's Third Ward with his wife Morgan, their three-year-old daughter Vivian, and their newborn son George. The Hollins family attends Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church.



MaryJane Mudd
President, League of Women Voters of Houston

MaryJane Mudd is President of the League of Women Voters of Houston and a longtime advocate for voter empowerment, women's rights and the rights of the disabled. Her interest in government advocacy grew when, in 1992, her then one-year old baby was diagnosed with Tuberous Sclerosis Complex (TSC), a rare disease causing significant neurological and health challenges. For 18 years, MaryJane has joined other advocates on Capitol Hill to lobby for research funding impacting not only people with TSC, but those with associated disorders like autism, epilepsy and kidney disease. Nearly \$90 million has been appropriated thus far due to this grass roots campaign and the fierce advocacy of parents, physicians and legislators.

MaryJane is also an award-winning professional communicator, whose work in stakeholder engagement, crisis communications, media relations, issues management and marketing communications has positively impacted organizations including Shell Oil, ConocoPhillips, Air Liquide America, Dow Chemical and the American Red Cross. MaryJane led local Red Cross Public Affairs activities during Hurricane Harvey, helping shape the narrative by participating in approximately 60 television, press and radio interviews, including national interviews with CBS, ABC, NPR, the Wall Street Journal and USA Today. She is trained in the Federal Emergency Response Agency's Incident Command System and has facilitated crisis communications and media interview training for more than 1,000 executives, managers and field employees. Beyond the League of Women Voters, MaryJane has served as President of the American Marketing Association, VP of Marketing and Class Chair for Leadership Houston, Communications Chair for the Purdue University Parent and Family Advisory Council, Corporate Advisory Board member for the National Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance and Advisory Board member for Houston Responds. She is frequently tapped as a motivational and keynote speaker on topics ranging from crisis communications and disaster response to special needs parenting.