

## West Keegans Bayou Improvement District Election Campaigns

I was trying to stay out of the campaigning for this election, but having just seen the Changing The Face of Our Neighborhood flyer I must share the truth. The state charter for WKBID is to improve storm water control and reduce flooding; it is not to build concrete sidewalks and parking lots. No regular maintenance of the bayou outfalls has been performed since Director Verma fired Miller and Associates in 2022 until now (March/April 2026) just before this election.

The team presented on this flyer is one current Director (the current President of the Board) and two unknown individuals. The unknown individuals have good credentials and electrical engineering experience. Unfortunately, having degrees in electrical engineering and being a veteran or having leadership/administration roles in education are not skills pertinent to flood control. The Board makes decisions that impact all residents' welfare. Just following the law (minimum code standards) and allowing contractors to meet only minimum engineering design for stormwater capacity is not good enough. The goal is not to save money on each maintenance project so that you can build parks; it is to plan for the worst and hope for the best.

Most members of the current Board and its contractors lack the technical understanding of what affects our ability to predict and prevent flooding. Weather patterns, the interaction of multiple physical systems – storm cell stalling, the Jet Stream movement, planetary orbits that affect the Earth's weather and climate (including seasonal and tidal timing) – are not predictable that far in advance. This is not climate change; it is just plain old weather.

We do know that West Keegans Bayou ID is at/near capacity for severe weather conditions now.

We do know that during Hurricane Harvey, the bayou was only 1 foot from overtopping the bank (and the rain did not stall as long over WKBID as it did in other areas of the Houston Metroplex).

Fort Bend County does not have any easy-to-get flood statistics, but Harris County is a very good proxy. ***There has been a rain- or storm-related flood event nearly every other year in recent history that equals or exceeds current design requirements.***

[https://www.hcfc.org/Portals/62/About/Flooding-History/26\\_0048\\_Flood%20Soaked%20History%20Timeline.pdf?ver=gfEmQcvlFbFn06Hlvst4oQ%3d%3d](https://www.hcfc.org/Portals/62/About/Flooding-History/26_0048_Flood%20Soaked%20History%20Timeline.pdf?ver=gfEmQcvlFbFn06Hlvst4oQ%3d%3d)

*That is something you can count on; there will be flooding. There has been more effort put into changing law and code requirements than maintaining and improving the flood control system.* The law and County Officials are not going to look after your best interests regarding flood prevention. Local Improvement Districts are what you have; make sure you vote for the right people. You want to choose Directors who will plan for the worst and hope for the best (not meet minimum standards for flood control and build parks). Bayou maintenance has been poor. Housekeeping improvements were not a priority; I fought for graffiti control, security cameras, MS4 compliance/cleaning up debris and dumping, and enforcing TCEQ State-mandated restrictions on dumping and no motor vehicles on the bayou. I am not running for another term. Director Verma did not take care of these things before; he was preoccupied with building trails.

No new trees have been planted, and they are desperately needed to stabilize channel banks and provide shade so that people can actually enjoy the trails year-round. The irrigation system that was installed when the original trees were planted around April Falls greenspace, near Addicks

Clodine crossing and at the little park off Bissonnet (between Royal Way and Wynbourn Ct) has been mothballed and is in disrepair under Director Verma and the previous Boards. There is no irrigation system to expand to support new planned trees.

***So, to contradict the claims on their flyer:***

The team of 3 may be the best educated, but NOT in proper flood control maintenance and design.

They are 2 electrical engineers (not pertinent to flood control), and the civil engineer has demonstrated that bayou maintenance is not his main priority.

No one tries to bully anyone at Board meetings except Director Verma. The public who come to witness the meetings are upset by the lack of bayou maintenance, and they have a right to be; they just want someone to listen, and their pleas are falling on deaf ears.

The other candidates running against this slate may not be any better technically qualified, but they are genuinely concerned and want to do what is best for the residents of the district; they will listen to competent contractors.

Robert Reko and Marie Hampton may be fooled, just as I was, that Director Verma knows what is best. Skim the minutes of meetings from previous years, available on the WKBID website <https://www.westkeegansbayouid.com/meetings/>. You will see that Director Verma voted against most outfall repairs in previous terms and has been preoccupied with building trails. His bayou maintenance record is poor. Outfall repairs from April Falls to Hwy 6 just started in March 2026; desilting will not be started until all outfall repairs are completed. The bayou has not been properly maintained for 4 years while he was President.

The graffiti abatement is because I forced the issue; residents thank our contractor whenever they see him out working. The security camera installation is because I forced the issue (while skimming the old minutes up to June 2023, I found out that the security camera install was actually approved by a prior Board, but the installation never got started). Some neighborhoods do not desire trail access, and these communities should not be pestered by the District. WKBID should concentrate on flood control and maintenance of their channel and greenspace areas; people who live in glass houses should not throw stones – WKBID has no business spending your tax dollars on debating thoroughfare improvements with County Commissioners when they are not properly maintaining their flood control district.

Vote for candidates who will concentrate on WKBID's core responsibilities and listen to competent contractors' advice (or seek guidance from experts at local universities, USACE, TCEQ). Director Verma does not know best, and he refuses to listen to experts or acknowledge shortcomings with his chosen contractors.

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