

would be put to drainage and infrastructure	
projects.	

Source: Renew Houston

Red-light camera fight

The drainage referendum is the first of three major charter amendment propositions that various interest groups hope will make the November ballot.

The other two include a proposal to ban the use of red-light

cameras in Houston and a move to change the three two-year terms to which elected officials are limited in the city.

The anti-red-light-camera effort is being led by Paul Kubosh, a lawyer who is seeking signatures to put the measure on the ballot by contacting his former clients, thousands of whom received tickets for moving violations in the city. Kubosh said Thursday that he has 22,000 signatures - the number needed to get a charter amendment on the ballot - but is in the process of verifying that they are registered voters, as required by law.

The term-limits proposal is being handled by a commission set up by former Mayor Bill White. The commission is expected to have its final meeting on Monday, when it will finalize its recommendations for changing term limits and forward a report to City Council. According to the ordinance setting up the commission, the council will have the ability to vote on whether to put the commission's recommendations to voters. Committee members say the most likely outcome is a recommendation to move to two four-year terms, although they have cautioned that plans could change up until their final meeting.

Mayor backs referendum

Mayor Annise Parker said she supports the drainage referendum, which has been prepared independently from her office. She said in a news conference Wednesday that the city lacks the funds necessary to do all the infrastructure work needed to take care of Houston's flooding problems.

If approved by voters, the proposal would pay for projects to repair streets and mitigate flooding with revenues from a new fee charged to businesses, homeowners and developers, as well as a portion of property tax money currently being used to pay off debt associated with infrastructure projects. In other words, the city would not incur additional debt to pay for infrastructure as part of the plan and as old debts are paid off, money used to make those payments would be put toward drainage and infrastructure projects.

The proposed referendum includes a provision that would continue the program for another 20 years after 2032 unless the City Council votes to modify or cancel it.

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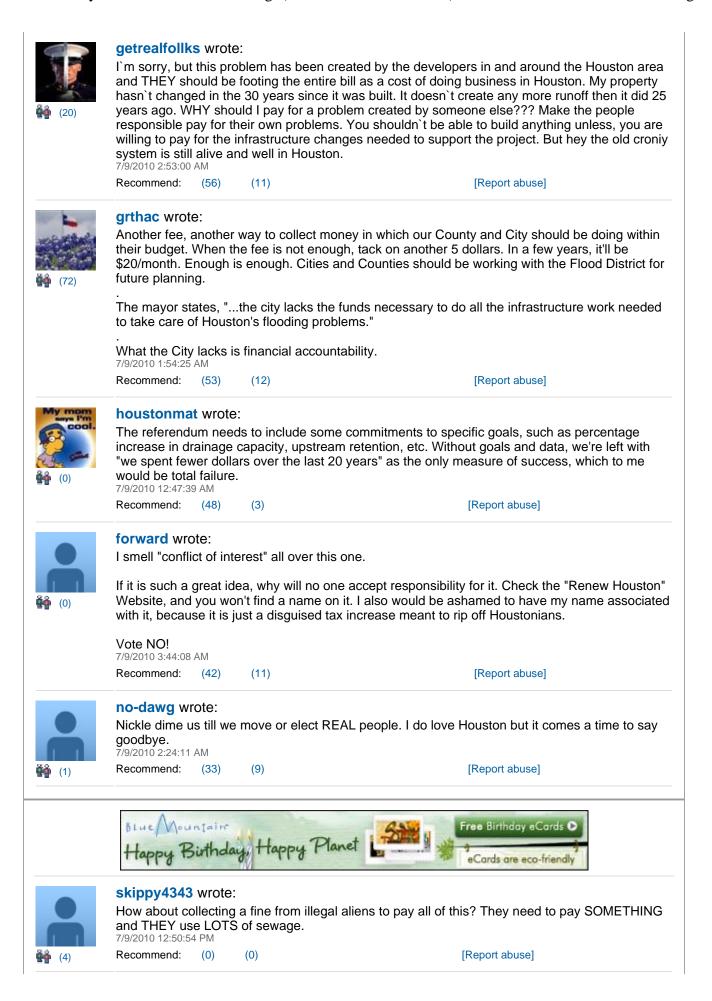
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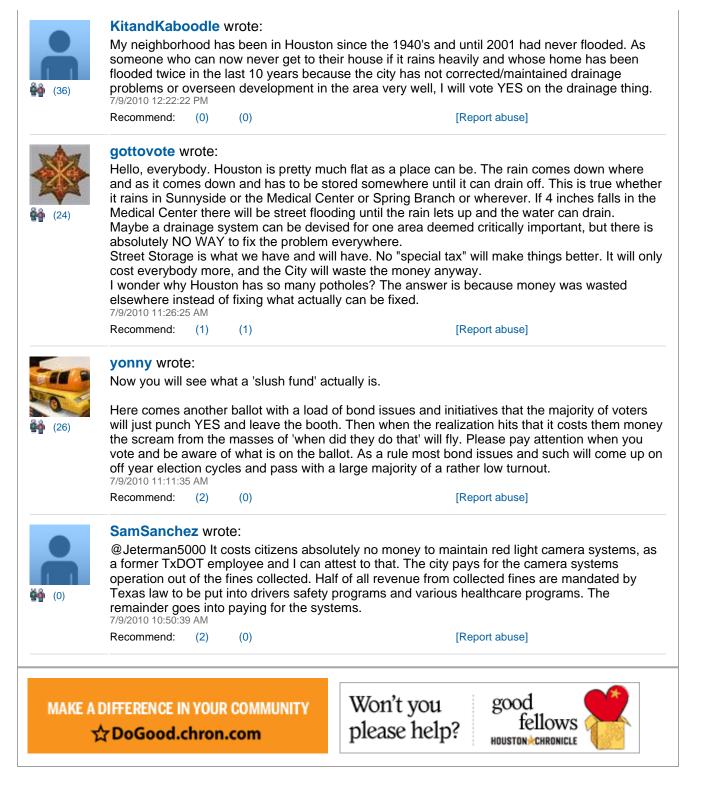
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