



SEPTEMBER 2023 EDITION

The Voice of Business

The Chamber's Board of Directors unanimously supported Pearland ISD's Voter Approved Tax Rate Election (VATRE) that is on the November ballot. With a rich legacy of fostering business growth and development, the Pearland Chamber is intrinsically aware of the critical role that quality education plays in shaping a robust workforce. A strong education system serves not only as the bedrock for personal growth, but as a vital asset in the cultivation of a prosperous community.

This VATRE proposal is set to usher in an additional funding of approximately \$11.1 million for the District, while concurrently reducing the overall tax rate by a notable 0.165 cents. This strategic maneuver exhibits a balanced approach to fiscal responsibility and investment in our future.

The Pearland Chamber believes the additional funds will ensure Pearland ISD can be competitive with compensation for staff while continuing programs like Turner High School, dual language, and the G/T Academy. We believe safeguarding these programs will create the next generations of workers in Pearland.

[Click Here for Pearland Chamber's Resolution of Support](#)

[Click Here for Pearland ISD Superintendent Berger's presentation on the VATRE](#)

Employment Situation

The August 2023 Houston Area Employment Situation that was released by Workforce Solutions – Gulf Coast shows Pearland still has one of the lowest unemployment percentages in the region (**4.5%, same from** last month's 4.5%). Brazoria County's unemployment is 5.1%, which is also the same from last month's 5.1%. The Houston region's unemployment is currently 4.4%, while the national average is 3.5% (page 16 of the report). The supplemental commentary on page 3 does an excellent job of explaining the Houston job market.

[Click Here for full employment report](#)

Sales Tax Update

The City of Pearland receives updates on sales tax collection from the state. Sales Tax collections are a great tool to evaluate the local economy. The report is always from two months prior, so in September, the city receives July's numbers. The total net collections increased compared to the previous year by

\$181,991 or 5.2% but is 1.7% behind the city's amended annual budget. Overall, the year-to-date collections for Pearland are up 6.3% compared to last year.

[Click Here for the report](#)

Development in Pearland

The Pearland Chamber is partnering with the City of Pearland for an event to provide training on Opening Your Business in Pearland. The training will cover the various stages of opening a business including zoning, permitting and ongoing inspections. Additionally, the SBDC, SBA and SCORE will be onsite to provide information on their resources. The event is free to attend. The Pearland Economic Development Corporations Summer Newsletter was released recently and includes information on WorkinPearland and Millar Inc.

[Click Here for more information and to RSVP](#)

[Click Here for the PEDC Newsletter](#)

PEDC, Alvin Community College and Lonza

Pearland is becoming a regional destination for biotechnology industry. Recently, the PEDC partnered with Alvin Community College and Lonza to create a two-level Biotechnology Certificate Course. This cohort will provide direct skills for one of Pearland's largest employers.

[Click Here to learn more about the program](#)

Pearland Innovation HUB

The Pearland Innovation HUB has relocated to their new location at the FranchiCzar HQ - Spacio. They are having an open house TONIGHT September 27. Additionally, they are always seeking individuals who are looking for coaching.

[Click Here for the link to RSVP to Open House](#)

Chamber Report

Taste of Pearland is set for October 24. Tickets begin at \$15 and will feature over 35 restaurants. This event celebrates Pearland's culinary scene. Our next luncheon is the State of the County with County Judge Matt Sebesta.

[Click Here to learn more about Taste of Pearland](#)

[Click Here to register for the State of tvhe County](#)