

Read Our Letter To The Editor In The Houston Chronicle

HOUSTON CHRONICLE | HOUSTONCHRONICLE.COM

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023 **A11**

OPINION

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Regarding [“Houston’s mayoral candidates are committed to environmental justice, but how much say they do have?”](#) (Dec. 5): As mayor, John Whitmire will have a powerful voice. He can use it to support community calls for a clean environment or remain silent and miss an important opportunity to protect the health of residents.



Houston is a world health care leader, yet we have some of the highest cancer rates in Texas. Prevention is a critically unmet need in our city, especially for the threat of exposure from toxic waste sites. Houston is also home to half the Superfund sites in Texas. More than 30 different illnesses, ranging from birth defects to lung cancer, have been associated with chemicals that are found in local legacy sites.

We hope he will use his position to magnify the quiet, anxious voice of the senior citizen who has just been diagnosed with stomach cancer or the expectant mother who worries that her baby will be a victim of childhood leukemia.

When Whitmire speaks as mayor of Houston, we hope he will speak for all of the people of Houston.

Jackie Medcalf, Texas Health and Environment Alliance