
STEPHEN C. COSTELLO, P.E.

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE:

Stephen Costello completed three terms as Houston City Council Member At-Large Position 1 at the end of 2015. During his time on City Council, he chaired the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Committee which oversees all financial matters related to the city's \$5 billion budget. He also served on the Quality of Life Committee, the Transportation, Technology, and Infrastructure Committee, and the Ethics, Elections, and Council Governance Committee. Representing the City of Houston, he chaired the Houston-Galveston Area Council's Transportation Policy Council, the leadership board responsible for providing policy guidance and overall coordination of transportation planning throughout the region.

Mr. Costello's expertise in drainage matters led Mayor Annise Parker to appoint him in his first term as chair of the Flooding and Drainage Committee. As chair, he focused on demonstrating the critical need to fix Houston's aging infrastructure. Mr. Costello's work on this committee brought infrastructure to the forefront of the city's policy agenda. Striving to reduce flooding risks in Houston, Stephen led the charge in 2010 to pass the Renew Houston initiative, now known as the ReBuild Houston Program, a pay-as-you-go program to improve Houston's street and drainage infrastructure.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

For 24 years, Stephen served as chairman of the board and president of Costello, Inc. a Houston civil engineering and surveying firm named repeatedly as one of the "Best Places to Work" by the Houston Business Journal (voted number one in 2009, 2010, and 2013-2015). He and six other partners started the firm in 1991 and the staff has grown to over 150 employees. In 2005, he convinced his fellow partners to diversify. Previously known simply for land development and drainage, the firm added the disciplines of transportation, municipal, and structural engineering.

A founding principle of the firm is that all partners be working partners. Until his election to Houston City Council in 2009, Stephen did just that, managing the work on numerous drainage projects. Although his responsibilities at City Hall kept him busy and often away from the engineering office, he still played a vital role as president and chief operating officer. In 2010, he facilitated a retreat with younger partners to determine their vision for the firm, after which he gave them the direction and support they needed to transition into leadership roles on the board.

In spring of 2016, Mayor Sylvester Turner asked Stephen to join his administration to be Houston's first chief resilience officer. Because the city had experienced back-to-back severe flood events in 2015 and 2016, Mayor Turner asked Stephen to oversee all city efforts to improve drainage and reduce flooding. Known as Houston's "flood czar," he serves as the city's point person on flooding and coordinates city efforts with other governmental agencies, internal city departments, business and community leaders, nonprofits, and residents. Since Hurricane Harvey hit in August 2017, Stephen participates on the

recovery team and actively advocates for additional state and federal funding for infrastructure improvements. He also leads the charge to advance several transformative infrastructure projects aimed at reducing structural flooding.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

Stephen has served as chair and longtime board member of the Memorial Park Conservancy (MPC), a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the natural habitat and historical significance of Memorial Park. MPC has grown from an eight-member advisory board to the city's Parks and Recreation Department to a 30+-member conservancy, implementing a \$300 million master plan and assuming full responsibility of the operations and maintenance of Memorial Park. He is also a former board member of Marathon Kids, SER Jobs for Progress, and Trees for Houston.

Currently, he is a board member of Family Houston, formerly Family Services of Greater Houston. Family Houston provides a wide array of case management and counseling services to families and individuals in need. Stephen is part of the board leadership team serving as board vice chair and chairs the governance committee. In 2019, he will become board chair.