



**BOARD OF EDUCATION
HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Hattie Mae White Educational Support Center
4400 West 18th Street • Houston, Texas 77092-8501

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FIRST CLASS MAIL, EMAIL, &
CERTIFIED MAIL

Isabel Longoria
Harris County Elections Administrator
Entity@vote.hctx.net

October 8, 2021

Dear Ms. Longoria:

This letter is in follow-up to my office's telephone conversation with your office on Monday, October 4, 2021, and my office's email communication sent to your office on Monday, October 4, 2021 and Tuesday, October 5, 2021 concerning the same matter. It has come to my attention as of Monday, October 4, 2021, that HISD incorrectly entered a candidate's name into the Harris County Elections Administrator's Office Entity Portal.

Lee Macerlaen Walker timely filed the attached application for a place on the ballot on August 16, 2021, to be considered a candidate for the Houston Independent School District Board of Education in District VII. Mr. Walker requested that his name appear as "Mac Walker" in the designated box on the application, which requests that a candidate write their name as they want it to appear on the ballot.

As the filing authority for HISD's election, I certify that the candidate's name should appear as Mac Walker on the ballot according to the information he filed with my office, and I am again requesting that the County remedy this error on the ballot if at all possible.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vermeille Jones".

Vermeille Jones
Director, Board Services

HOUSTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

HISD PRESS RELEASE

HISD's statement on ballot error

Oct. 12, 2021 – The Houston Independent School District is aware of an error regarding the name of a District VII Board of Education candidate on the upcoming November 2, 2021, election ballot. Mr. Lee Macerlaen Walker's application was filed in the Office of Board Services on Monday, August 16, 2021, and he was notified of its acceptance via certified letter on Wednesday, August 18, 2021. Mr. Walker's legal name is Lee Walker, but he asked to be identified as Mac Walker on the ballot.

HISD acknowledges and takes responsibility for the error in inputting Mr. Walker's name into the Harris County Elections Administrator's Office Entity Portal.

As soon as we were made aware of the error, the Office of Board Services contacted our partners at Harris County, who administer HISD's elections, on Monday, October 4, 2021, to fix the mistake. Additional efforts were made to remedy the error with Harris County and the Texas Secretary of State's Office. However, it is our understanding from Harris County that the ballot cannot be corrected at this time. Mr. Walker's legal name will appear on the ballot.

Corrective actions and systems in the Office of Board Services have been put into place to ensure that this does not happen again.

HISD is legally required to publish notice of its election in a newspaper (HISD will use the Houston Chronicle), on the bulletin board the District uses for posting notices of its board meetings, and on the HISD website. This notice will indicate Mr. Walker's preferred name, Mac Walker, as well as the name Lee Walker that will appear on the ballot. Although not required, HISD is also publishing the notice of election in the following publications: Forward Times, La Voz, and Vietnam Post. Additionally, as permitted by the Election Code, HISD will mail the notice of election to registered voters in all five of the single-member districts having an election on November 2, 2021.

HISD PRESS OFFICE | 713-556-6393 | PressOffice@HoustonISD.org | HoustonISD.org/HISDmedia

The Houston Independent School District is the largest school district in Texas and the seventh-largest in the United States, with 280 schools and more than 209,772 students. The 333-square-mile district is one of the largest employers in the Houston metropolitan area, with more than 27,000 employees.

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