



The Partnerships hosts Harris County Judge Ed Emmett for the annual State of the County address

The Greater Houston Partnership hosted Harris County Judge Ed Emmett for the annual State of the County event at NRG Stadium on Friday, Feb. 13, 2015. Entering his third term, Judge Emmett outlined his vision for leading a growing urban county.

Partnership Chair Gina Luna welcomed the audience and offered insights into the critical relationship between the Partnership and the County. “The Partnership has worked closely with Harris County for many years to create a positive economic climate here in the region” said Luna. “As we shift our thoughts to the legislative session in Austin, the Partnership is working on priorities critical to Harris County as well as the greater Houston.”



As Harris County’s top officials take on an increasingly wide range of challenges including transportation, criminal justice and healthcare, County Judge Ed Emmett called for state officials to allow local authorities more flexibility to manage the constantly changing face of the state’s most urban county. With Proposition 1 passing with 80 percent of the votes in Harris County, transportation in particular is top of mind among county residents. During the current legislative session, it is also one of the top priorities for the Partnership.

“The population of unincorporated Harris County will soon surpass the population of the City of Houston,” Emmett said. “Harris County needs policymakers and agencies in Austin and Washington to recognize that our residents need a different approach than that applied to rural counties and to urban counties in which the vast majority of people live in incorporated cities” he added.

Emmett’s speech was his eighth State of the County Address since becoming county judge, but this year’s event was the first to be held at NRG Park, the county-owned park that is home to NRG Stadium, NRG Center, NRG Arena and the Astrodome. NRG Park also will host Super Bowl 51 in February 2017.

Emmett concluded this year’s event by inviting the nearly 1,000 attendees across the street to the floor of the Astrodome, which turns 50 years old this spring.