



GREATER HOUSTON PARTNERSHIP

**CONTACT:**

**Clint Pasche**  
Vice President, Communications  
(713) 844-3645 – office  
[cpasche@houston.org](mailto:cpasche@houston.org)

**Ashley White**  
Coordinator, Communications  
(713) 844-3640 – office  
[awhite@houston.org](mailto:awhite@houston.org)

# **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**September 30, 2013**

## **GREATER HOUSTON PARTNERSHIP HOSTS TEXAS SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE JOE STRAUS AT STATE OF WATER EVENT**

HOUSTON – The Greater Houston Partnership welcomed the Honorable Joe Straus, Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, to the State of Water on Monday, September 30. Addressing the critical issue of water for the state of Texas, the event featured a panel discussion with representatives from Odebrecht, Dow Chemical Company, City of Houston and San Jacinto River Authority, as well as a keynote address from Speaker Straus.

Speaker Straus discussed the importance of voter approval of Proposition 6 on the November 5 ballot. The referendum provides a one-time transfer of funds into an account established exclusively to fund projects within the approved State of Water Plan. These funds will help support critical water projects throughout the state for the next 50 years without increasing taxes.

"Proposition 6 will establish a long-term water supply for Texas," Speaker Straus said. "Legislators from both parties and business leaders from across our economy understand that this is a historic opportunity to address our water shortage, and I want to thank the Greater Houston Partnership for taking such an active role in this effort."

The Greater Houston Partnership's President and CEO, Bob Harvey announced a comprehensive grassroots effort, targeting regional organizations to help drive the public's awareness about the issue.

"GHP strongly supports Proposition 6 because we are committed to preserving our economy and protecting the people who live in our communities," Harvey said, "We are excited to work with our regional chambers and economic development agencies to ensure that their members and key constituents know what is at stake with this important referendum."

According to the Region H Water Planning Group, the Houston region's population will grow from approximately 6 million to 11.3 million residents by 2060. Demand for water resources in the region is projected to increase 48 percent while supplies are projected to decrease during that same timeframe. Based on these projections, the Houston region will not have enough water supplies to meet the demands of these new Texans during times of drought. Without additional water sources, experts project billions of dollars in economic losses and more than 1.1 million lost jobs statewide by 2060.

Harvey closed the event by saying, "The Greater Houston Partnership firmly believes that the proposed funding package in Proposition 6 is a smart solution that deserves strong support and we urge you to vote yes for Prop 6 this election cycle."

Early voting is October 21- November 1. Election Day is November 5.

###

The Greater Houston Partnership is the primary voice of Houston's business community and is dedicated to building regional economic prosperity. It represents 10 counties: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto and Waller. With more than 2,100 Member organizations, GHP represents approximately one-fifth of the region's work force. Visit GHP at [houston.org](http://houston.org).