



# 休斯顿市投票日期

## 11月6日

提前投票10月22日开始



### 选票有哪些内容?



1 选举担任州、郡和区职务的官员



2 “重建休斯顿”项目(ReBuild Houston, 提案 A)



3 消防员工会的请愿 (提案B)

注意: “全部支持一党派候选人”(straight party) 的投票不包含对重建休斯顿(ReBuild Houston) 提案及消防员工会请愿的“赞成”或“反对”票。



### 什么是重建休斯顿项目 (REBUILD HOUSTON)?



提案 A 是一项“重新”表决的提案，旨在批准本市现有 Rebuild Houston 街道及排水系统计划 ( 详见网站 Rebuild-Houston.org)。



要求投票人支持建立专款专用制度，限制下水道税收收入的使用，规定只能用于抗洪、排水和街道改善。



从 2012年至2017 年，ReBuild Houston 计划为改善排水系统已提供超过 8 亿美元并偿还了11亿美元旧债。



如果提案A未获通过，本市将失去一个用于抗洪、排水和街道改善的“专用”资金来源。

### 消防员工会的请愿是什么?



提案 B 是投票决定消防员薪资是否比照警察薪资执行，无需消防员的教育背景或工作时间的额外要求。

市政府无法通过提高税率来筹资支付这笔涨薪金额，原因是投标人已在2004年设定了年度收入上限。



要求投票人表决市政府给消防员第一年的加薪不低于25%，加上相当于警察的薪资增幅。

市政府可能不得不解雇消防员和其他雇员，并削减在公共安全、公园及图书馆方面提供的服务。



休斯顿市每年将为该25%的加薪多支出至少9800万美元。这已超出市府的支付能力。

消防员拒绝了前市长提出的加薪 4% 的建议，也拒绝了特纳市长提出的3年加薪 9.5% 的方案。



特纳市长关于消防员3年加薪9.5%的建议仍然有效。消防员与警察的职责、工作时间、班次和训练要求均不相同。[ 在那些消防员与警察同酬的城市，紧急情况响应人员有单一谈判组织，而且消防员工作小时数比休斯顿长。特别是休斯顿消防署接到的电话有80% 只是请求医疗急救服务。]

休斯顿市提案 A, 請投 YES; 休斯顿市提案 B, 請投 NO

## Most dangerous Houston suburbs ranked by 2017 violent crime rate

By Rebecca Hennes

How much violent crime do you see in your community? The FBI's newly released report on 2017 crime data in the United States provides updated statistics for each Houston community, including murders, manslaughters, rapes, thefts and assaults. Houston area suburbs are ranked from highest violent crime rates per 1,000 residents to lowest. The Chronicle calculated the crime rate of each city by dividing the number of known violent crime incidents in a given area by that area's population, then multiplying it by 1,000. None of the Houston suburbs exceeded the city of Houston crime rate, which is ranked at 10.95 violent crimes per 1,000 residents.

The Humble area has the second highest violent crime rate of 9.4 per 1,000, with 147 total violent crimes reported, while the Shoreacres community in the Bay Area came in dead last with no violent crimes reported in 2017.

Local law enforcement agencies voluntarily submit numbers to be in the FBI's annual report. Pearland and Galena Park were not included in the 2017 report. Stafford Population: 18,530

Stafford  
Population: 18,530  
2017 violent crimes: 121  
Violent crimes per 1,000: 6.53

Galveston  
Population: 51,021  
2017 violent crimes: 257  
Violent crimes per 1,000: 4.94

Sugar Land  
Population: 89,790  
2017 violent crimes: 71  
Violent crimes per 1,000: 0.79

Missouri City  
Population: 75,863  
2017 violent crimes: 149  
Violent crimes per 1,000: 1.96

Conroe  
Population: 85,534  
2017 violent crimes: 249  
Violent crimes per 1,000: 2.91

Memorial Villages  
Population: 12,319  
2017 violent crimes: 1  
Violent crimes per 1,000: 0.08



Houston  
Population: 2,338,235  
2017 violent crimes: 25,609  
Violent crimes per 1,000: 10.95

## Streets closures planned during Trump visit to Houston

The Houston Police Department will be "fully mobilized" for President Donald Trump's Monday downtown rally, for which at least 70,000 people have signed up despite the venue's roughly 18,000-person capacity, Chief Art Acevedo said Friday.

Police will begin closing off streets around the Toyota Center beginning at about 5:30 a.m., Acevedo said, with closures on Bell, Jackson, La Branch and Polk streets in the immediate area of the arena.

By 7 a.m. Friday, 77,854 people had signed up for the rally, according to a person familiar with the matter. Attendees must have tickets to enter and will be admitted in the order in which they line up.

Trump is holding the rally with Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, who is facing a re-election challenge from U.S. Rep. Beto O'Rourke, D-El Paso.

Acevedo said HPD had heard unconfirmed reports of a separate nearby rally for O'Rourke that could draw thousands more people.

"We will have many many officers out and about," Acevedo said. "We will have officers on the high ground, low ground, in the air. We will have officers in plain-clothes, we will have undercover officers, we will have react teams."

He added that officers from the federal, state and county levels would lend support, too.



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# Editor's Choice



A Honduran migrant, part of a caravan trying to reach the U.S., reacts with her children after storming a border checkpoint to cross into Mexico, in Tecun Uman



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo visits Panama and Mexico



A Wells Fargo ATM machine is shown in Los Angeles, California



A Starbucks sign is shown on one of the company's stores in Los Angeles, California



Trade visitors are seen walking over a road crossing covered with Lockheed Martin branding at Farnborough International Airshow in Farnborough, Britain



A sign advertising tickets for the \$1-billion Mega Millions lottery drawing is seen in Brooklyn, New York



European Rugby Champions Cup - Leicester Tigers v Scarlets



A man wears a "I Love Muhammad" pin after Khalifa of Islam Mirza Masroor Ahmad, head of the global Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, delivered a sermon at the inauguration of the new Baitul Aafiyat mosque in Philadelphia

Researchers trying to figure out how meat causes heart disease came up with another possible explanation last week: an essential nutrient found in meat and eggs might be a culprit. They found evidence that choline may feed gut bacteria that in turn produce a compound that makes blood sticky and prone to form clots that can cause heart attacks and strokes.

It's the latest in their series of studies looking at what specific compounds in food raise people's risk of heart disease, the no. 1 cause of death in the U.S. and much of the world. Choline is considered an essential nutrient and getting too little can, ironically, lead to heart disease, cancer and other conditions. It's found in abundant quantities in egg yolks, liver, red meat, peanuts and wheat germ. Dr. Stanley Hazen of the Cleveland Clinic and colleagues did a small but intense study in 18 volunteers – eight of them vegetarians or vegans, and 10 people who eat meat, eggs and dairy. They gave all 18 choline supplements – 500 mg daily. The recommended adequate intake of choline from all sources is 425 mg a day for women and 550 mg a day for men.

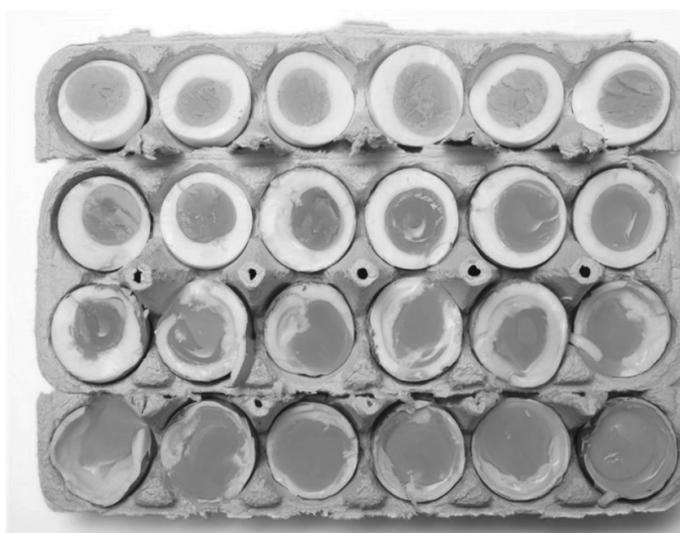
“Unless prescribed by your doctor, avoid supplements with choline.”

## Bacteria May be Reason Some Foods Cause Heart Disease, Stroke

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



Hard-boiled egg cut in half on chopping board



A photo of eggs cooked to different temperatures included in “The Food Lab” by J. Kenji López-Alt. J. Kenji López-Alt / W.W. Norton and Company

After a month, their blood levels of a compound called trimethylamine N-oxide (TMAO) rose 10-fold. In tests, their blood became much more likely to form clots, the team reported in the journal *Circulation*. “TMAO supercharges platelet function,” Hazen said. Platelets are cell-like structures in the blood that help form blood clots. TMAO makes them sticky, Hazen said. “What is clear from this study is if you increase the choline in your diet, the TMAO level goes up and that changes your platelet function,” Hazen told NBC News. The vegans and vegetarians had much lower levels of choline to start with than the meat-eaters did, Hazen's team reported. Even after taking choline, their blood levels were much lower. “Foods that raise TMAO may increase your risk for clotting and thrombotic events. Unless prescribed by your doctor, avoid supplements with choline,” Hazen said in a statement. “A Mediterranean or vegetarian diet is reported to help reduce TMAO.”

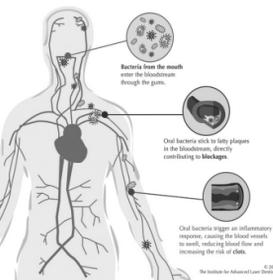
The research team did not find that people who took the supplements had an actual higher risk of heart disease – the study did not last long enough or include enough people to show that.



But they've also found that other compounds found in animal products also raise levels of TMAO. “We previously showed gut microbial production of trimethylamine N-oxide (TMAO) from dietary nutrients like choline, lecithin, and L-carnitine is linked to the development of cardiovascular diseases,” they wrote. “Almost all of the probiotics that are commercially sold now have virtually no studies to demonstrate that they actually do anything, even survive in your stomach.” “The new study provides the first direct evidence in humans that consuming excess choline, an essential nutrient plentiful in a Western diet, raises both levels of the bacteria-produced compound, called trimethylamine N-oxide (TMAO), and the tendency of platelets to clump together and form clots,” the American Heart Association, which publishes *Circulation*, said in a statement. “Numerous studies have shown that higher blood levels of TMAO are associated with a greater risk of heart disease, including heart attacks and strokes in humans, and recent studies showed that feeding animals choline-supplemented diets also raised their risk of clotting.” Taking a daily aspirin reduced the clotting effect, they added. “An unanticipated

finding was that low-dose aspirin partially reduced choline supplement-dependent rise in TMAO,” they wrote.

Gum Disease and Heart Disease: The Bacteria Connection



“Although the mechanism for this result is unknown, aspirin has been reported to alter the composition of the gut microbial community.” Choline is important for human development and health. It's used to make membranes and affects brain development. It also affects how the body clears out “bad” cholesterol.

A large egg delivers about 125 mg of choline. Scientists know that gut bacteria are vital for digesting and metabolizing food. People could not survive without the trillions of bacteria, viruses and fungi species that live in and on our bodies.

But the balance of those germs can affect health greatly. Gut bacteria can protect against certain infections and play a role in obesity. Studies indicate they may affect the risk of cancer, heart disease and even mental illnesses such as schizophrenia. Other teams have narrowed down the species of bacteria that metabolize choline, L-carnitine and other compounds to make TMAO. Hazen's hope is to develop ways to alter these bacteria or their products to lower the risk of heart disease.

Right now, products may promise to do so but none are proven, said Hazen, who helped found a company that licensed a test for TMAO to the Cleveland Clinic.

“Almost all of the probiotics that are commercially sold now have virtually no studies to demonstrate that they actually do anything, even survive in your stomach,” Hazen said. (Courtesy <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/>)

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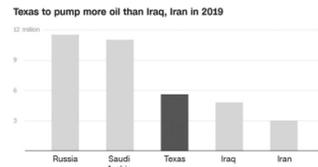
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The shale oil boom has brought a gold rush mentality to the Lone Star State, which is home to not one but two massive oilfields. Plunging drilling costs have sparked an explosion of production out of the Permian Basin of West Texas. In fact, Texas is pumping so much oil that it will surpass OPEC members Iran and Iraq next year, HSBC predicted in a recent report. If it were a country, Texas would be the world's No. 3 oil producer, behind only Russia and Saudi Arabia, the investment bank said. "It's remarkable. The Permian is nothing less than a blessing for the global economy," said Bob McNally, president of Rapidan Energy Group, a consulting firm. The hyper growth out of Texas is needed because oil prices have risen sharply and major players like Saudi Arabia are quickly maxing out their production.



Much of the excitement in Texas centers around the Permian Basin. Some oil execs believe the amount of oil in the Permian rivals Saudi Arabia's Ghawar Field, the world's largest conventional oilfield. Rapid technological advances have dramatically brought down the cost of pumping oil everywhere, especially out of the Permian. Wells there can be profitable below \$40 a barrel. "The industry cracked the code on fracking," said McNally. The rise of Texas, which is also home to the Eagle Ford oilfield in the state's south, shows how the shale oil revolution has reshaped the global energy landscape. The United States is pumping more oil than ever before, making it less reliant on the turbulent Middle East for imports. "It's not going to make the world peaceful, but it will make it less volatile," said McNally, a former White House official. Scott Sheffield, the chairman of major Permian player Pioneer Natural Resources (PXD), told CNNMoney last month that the United States will become the world's biggest oil producer by the fall. The combined output of the Permian and Eagle Ford is expected to rise from just 2.5 million barrels per day in 2014 to 5.6 million barrels per day in 2019, according to HSBC. That means Texas will account for more than half of America's total oil production. By comparison, Iraq's daily production is seen

# Don't Mess With Texas -- It's A Global Oil Superpower

## Texas To Surpass Iraq And Iran As World's No. 3 Oil Powerhouse

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



at about 4.8 million barrels, while Iran is projected to pump 3 million. Oil supplies from Iran are likely to plunge due to tough sanctions from the United States. However, the boom in Texas has been so



rapid that growing pains have emerged. The Permian Basin is quickly running out of pipelines to transport oil out of Texas, forcing companies to explore costly and potentially dangerous alternatives like

rail and trucks. More pipelines are getting built, but they won't be ready in time to fix the bottlenecks that have formed. Fifty-five percent of executives surveyed by the Dallas Federal Reserve expect the lack of crude oil pipeline capacity will slow activity in the Permian. HSBC called the Permian a "victim of its own success" and predicted that logistical constraints will cause production growth will slow in the future. The pipeline shortage is already hurting local prices. The price of oil in West Texas recently traded at a \$15 discount to Houston prices. Some oil companies are also tapping the brakes. The number of oil rigs in the Permian dropped by five in June even as the overall US rig count was stable, according to the International Energy Agency. "We're not in a hurry to grow it fast against a system that's completely constrained today,"

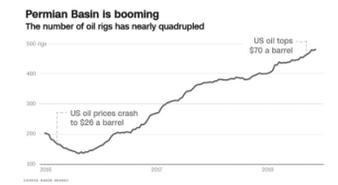
ConocoPhillips (COP) CEO Ryan Lance reportedly said in May. Another headache: the rush to pump in the Permian is making it more expensive to pay for supplies and services. The cost to service oilfields has spiked by 10% to 15% for some companies in the Permian, HSBC said. At the same time, oil executives are complaining that it's difficult to find employees. The challenge is magnified by low unemployment in Texas and nationally. "The labor shortage is getting critical," one exec told the Dallas Fed.

**Related**

**Growing pains across America's biggest oilfield "The Permian Basin, arguably the most important oilfield in the world, is growing so**

**fast that it hurts."**

A rush to pump oil out of the West Texas shale field has vaulted the United States to record-high production levels. But the gangbusters growth has created serious challenges. The Permian Basin is rapidly running out of pipeline to carry all that crude. Companies are struggling to find talented workers. And the region's infrastructure is buckling under the pressure. "Right now, everything's an issue: Water, sand, buildings, transportation. You name it," Ryan Sitton, a commissioner on the Texas Railroad Commission, told CNNMoney in a recent interview. The Lone Star State is no stranger to the boom-to-bust nature of the oil industry. But the speed of this cycle has even caught many in Texas off-guard. "In 2014, it was amazing. 2016 was down in the dumps. Two years later, it's back to crazy," said Sitton.



The Permian Basin's growing pains have global implications. US oil prices have nearly tripled since their early 2016 low, in large part because of production cutbacks by OPEC and Russia. Sanctions on Iran are also biting, with crude hitting a three-and-a-half year high this week. More than ever, the fast-growing Permian Basin is being relied on to quench the world's thirst for oil. The Permian is the "largest and most important source of oil supply growth in the world," analysts at consulting firm Wood Mackenzie wrote in a recent report. That's because the Permian Basin's unique geology makes it easier and cheaper for major players like Chevron (CVX) and Pioneer Natural Resources (PXD) to drill for vast deposits of oil. The best-performing wells in the Permian can break-even at just \$22 a barrel, according to a report by analytics firm GlobalData. Those extremely favorable economics help explain why the number of active oil rigs in the Permian Basin has nearly quadrupled since the low in April 2016, according to Baker Hughes. (Courtesy CNNMoney)

**Technical Field Service Engineer (Field Service Specialist Adv.) position at Vallution, LLC Houston, TX 77036**

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Contact: info@vallutionusa.com  
Attn: HR Manager

**TITLE** Field Service Engineer (Field Service Specialist, ADV.)  
**DESCRIPTION** Will serve as technical support person for the Business Development Manager in corporate accounts and independent sales managers and other accounts designated by the District sales Manager. The Field Service Engineer will be the first line of defense on problems within a Vallution organization. The Service Engineer will then direct the appropriate home office resource to help solve the customers' problems. The Service Engineer assumes the responsibility to collect pressure relief valves engineering knowledge of different manufactures and develop proposals from the corporate accounts and develop sales plans with distributors when directed by the District Sales Manager. Assumes the ability to conduct short technical seminars at the corporate accounts. Will be trained and have the ability to audit regional field service technicians and run tests as needed.

**POSITION REQUIREMENTS**  
Requires a Bachelor's degree in Petroleum Engineering, Environmental Engineering or a related field. Must have at least 10+ years of experience in a manufacturing environment with exposure to O&G up stream, midstream and downstream production facilities, chemical and refinery, power plants. Must have verbal and written skills to communicate effectively with plant and Master site personnel at all levels. Must have the ability to travel and stay overnight, onshore and offshore. Bilingual (English and Chinese) skills preferred.

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