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## **Houston's \$100 Million Ballot-Box Fight Over Firefighter Raises.**

- **First-term mayor freezes new hiring, warns of sweeping cuts**
- **Post Hurricane Harvey, City Hall still shrouded in plywood**

Little more than a year after Hurricane Harvey paralyzed Houston and wrecked thousands of homes, residents of the fourth-largest U.S. city will vote on a bitterly contested measure over firefighter pay that municipal leaders warn could trigger massive layoffs and service cuts.

In a Texas election season featuring an insurgent challenge to Republican U.S. Senator Ted Cruz by Democrat Beto O'Rourke, Houston residents are riveted on Proposition B, the Nov. 6 ballot measure that would bring firefighter pay to parity with police officers. At stake, according to Mayor Sylvester Turner, are hard-won public pension reforms that stabilized the city's long-term financial outlook in the aftermath of last year's devastating hurricane.

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### **Bloomberg Politics**

By Joe Carroll

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