

# E-NEWSLETTER

NEWS FROM THE CITY OF PELHAM  
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**MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL-ELECT**

## Pelham Elects New Leadership

Pelham residents went to the polls twice in the past two months to shape the City's leadership for the next four years. Following the August 26 Municipal General Election and the September 23 Runoff Election, Pelham's voters have elected a new mayor and a City Council that blends experienced leadership with fresh voices.

### Runoff Election Results – September 23, 2025

Because no candidate achieved a majority in the August general election for City Council Places 3 and 4, a runoff was held on September 23. Voter participation in the runoff was 7.95%, with 1,515 ballots cast out of 19,052 registered voters

- Council Place 3:
  - Chris Townes – 1,041 votes (69.12%)
  - Cathy Cartagena – 465 votes (30.88%)

- Council Place 4:
  - Markus Snowden – 939 votes (64.25%)
  - Ron Griggs – 537 votes (35.75%)

With these victories, Townes and Snowden will join the Council this November.

### General Election Results – August 26, 2025

The August 26 election set the stage for significant change in Pelham leadership:

- Mayor: City Councilmember Rick Wash defeated Council President Maurice Mercer. Wash becomes Pelham's first new mayor in 13 years following Mayor Gary Waters' decision not to seek re-election.
- Council Place 1: Michelle Power, veteran educator and political newcomer, unseated incumbent David Coram.

*Article continues on next page.*

### THIS MONTH:

Family Fun at National Night Out

Celebrate the Season at Fall-O-Ween

An Improved Place to Play Ball

A Forward-Thinking Budget

Another Step in ReAmp OMA

When Does it Open? A Guide to New Restaurants



- Council Place 2: Incumbent Chad Leverett defeated challenger Will Blake.
- Council Place 5: Incumbent and local businessman Michael Harris retained his seat, defeating Russell Platt.

Together with Townes and Snowden, this Council will begin its work under Mayor-Elect Wash's leadership, marking a new era for Pelham governance.

The new Mayor and City Council will be sworn in on November 3, 2025.

**Mayor-Elect Wash Looks Ahead**

Mayor-Elect Rick Wash said his priority will be to ensure that all the city's stakeholders work collaboratively to address Pelham's infrastructure challenges and to chart a shared vision for growth. "It is important for us to have open discussion and collaboration to create a clear and comprehensive plan for responsible growth in our city," Wash explained.

Wash also reflected on the legacy of outgoing Mayor Gary Waters, who served Pelham for more than a decade. "Mayor Waters has left quite the shoes to fill, leaving a remarkable and wonderful legacy," Wash said. "I feel honored and blessed to be following in his footsteps. Moving forward, my goal is to continue and further the positive growth and momentum that he helped create. Thankfully, I am coming on board with the best city staff to do this with."

For Wash, resident and business engagement will be a cornerstone of his administration. "The residents and local businesses are the future of Pelham," he said. He noted that continued community events and direct outreach to small businesses will be key, adding that "transparency, open communication, and collaboration are the keys to success."

A strong working relationship with City Manager Gretchen DiFante and her senior leadership team will also be central to his plans. "What many people may not realize is that Gretchen has spent the past eight years thoughtfully recruiting, hiring, and developing one of the most qualified and dedicated staffs I've ever had the pleasure to work with," Wash said. "Together, I believe we have a strong, unified team in place—a team that I am confident will work wonderfully together to take Pelham to new heights."

As he prepares to take office in November, Wash emphasized his readiness to "hit the ground running" and his confidence that Pelham is in a strong position to move forward.

