COMMUNITY

KTX Window Cleaning LLC named finalist in U.S. Chamber of Commerce CO—100 Awards

FROM STAFF REPORTS

KTX Window Cleaning LLC, a locally owned business founded by Kyle and Olivia Martin, has been recognized by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce as one of the Top 10 Finalists in the "Customer Champions" category of the national CO—100 Awards. The duo made the announcement in a September 3 press release.

Selected from thousands of applicants, KTX Window Cleaning was honored for its outstanding customer service and community impact. The CO—100 celebrates the top 100 small businesses across the country, with winners to be announced at the CO—100 gala in Washington, D.C., this October.

The CO—100 honorees were chosen out of more than 12,500 applicants by a panel of judges for impressive growth, innovative strategies, and commitment to building strong workplace cultures. Over a quarter of the competitors (26%) generated $2.5 million or more in revenue last year, while 73% of honorees generated over $250k. The list includes tech innovators, customer champions, growth accelerators, disruptors, and global stars located in 35 states and Washington, D.C.

"Small businesses are the heartbeat of our economy, and their stories are nothing short of extraordinary," said Jeanette Mulvey, Vice President and Editor-in-Chief of CO—100 by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. "The CO—100 honorees exemplify what it means to lead with purpose, adapt with agility, and build with vision. These entrepreneurs and teams are not only shaping their local communities—they're setting new standards for what's possible in business."

"This recognition is humbling and almost hard to believe," said Olivia Martin, co-owner. "Our mission has always been simple — treat people well, deliver exceptional service, and care deeply for our community. To see those values recognized on a national stage is beyond exciting."

Beyond KTX Window Cleaning, the Martins also lead KTX Blue Towel Mission, a nonprofit that repurposes recycled surgical towels into resale products to fund free home upkeep services for elderly Texans. They are also working to provide OSHA safety training seminars to individuals desiring to enter the force. Olivia Martin is also a co-founder of "Women of Katy," which provides scholarships, resources, and educational events that connect and support women across the Katy area. She is also a past president of the Katy Business Association (now the Katy Business Alliance).

Founded in 2018, KTX Window Cleaning has grown into a trusted name for window cleaning, gutter cleaning, pressure washing, and screen repair services across Katy, Fulshear, and surrounding communities. The company employs 12 at its location at 5150 Franz Road in Katy.

Olivia and Kyle Martin

"This honor is not just ours," Olivia Martin added. "It belongs to our incredible team, our loyal customers, and our community. We are proud to represent Katy, Texas, on the national stage."

Kyle Martin is originally from Old Katy while Olivia Martin hails from East Texas.

Local teen all-female band Garbage Girlfriend releases first single


PHOTO COURTESY OF GARBAGE GIRLFRIEND
Katy-based alternative/garage rock band Garbage Girlfriend just recorded their debut EP and will release their first single, "Lies," on September 12. Band members are (left to right) Evelyn Moreno, Christy Ferra, Liv Teixeira (standing), and Ciona Casino.

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Garbage Girlfriend, the all-female teen alternative/garage rock band from Katy, is releasing their first single, "Lies," on all streaming platforms on September 12.

Fans can pre-save the track now to be notified when it goes live at midnight. Produced by Grammy Award-winning, multi-platinum producer Malcolm Springer out of Nashville, "Lies" is the first in a series of releases that will culminate in the band's debut album. An official music video for "Lies" will premiere on YouTube on Thursday, September 11 at 6 p.m. CT.

On release day, Garbage Girlfriend will open for national touring act Liliac at Warehouse Live Midtown 2600 Travis in Houston starting at 7 p.m. Garbage Girlfriend's July appearance at the venue drew more than 600 attendees.

"We can't believe a song all four of us wrote together is about to be heard around the world—it's a teenage dream come true," said Evelyn Moreno,17, drummer and founder of Garbage Girlfriend. "Please pre-save 'Lies' on your favorite platform and come celebrate with us Friday night at Warehouse Live."

Garbage Girlfriend consists of lead vocalist Liv Teixeira,15; guitarist Christy Ferra, 15; drummer Evelyn Moreno, 17; and bassist Ciona Casino, 18. Moreno attends Katy's Taylor High School while Ferra is at Mayde Creek. Teixeira attends Bridgeland High School in Cypress-Fairbanks, ISD. Casino is a Seven Lakes High School grad and now a freshman at the University of Houston. The band is managed by Paul Crosby Management.

Moreno founded the band in July 2022 shortly after she broke up with her first-ever boyfriend, who called her a garbage girlfriend in a text message. She had been wanting to start a band; that text gave Moreno the push and partly fueled her decision to make the members all-female. The girls met when they were students at School of Rock. For more info, visit www.garbagegirlfriendband.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Brief Explanatory Statements of Proposed Constitutional Amendments Special Election, November 4, 2025

Proposition Number 1
(SJR 59)

SJR 59 proposes a constitutional amendment to establish two special funds in the state treasury to provide a dedicated source of funding for capital projects and equipment purchases related to educational programs offered by the Texas State Technical College (TSTC) System. The proposed amendment requires the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts to manage the funds, including managing any investment activities related to the funds and making the funds available for use by the TSTC System. The proposed amendment authorizes the TSTC System Board of Regents to use amounts distributed by the Comptroller to the available fund to acquire land, construct and equip buildings and other permanent improvements, make major repairs and rehabilitations of buildings or other permanent improvements, acquire capital equipment, acquire library books and materials, make payment of the principal and interest due on any bonds or notes used to finance permanent improvements, or for any other purpose authorized by law. Under the proposed amendment, the TSTC System could not use the appropriated funds to construct, equip, repair, or rehabilitate buildings or other permanent improvements that are to be used for intercollegiate athletics or auxiliary enterprises.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the permanent technical institution infrastructure fund and the available workforce education fund to support the capital needs of educational programs offered by the Texas State Technical College System."**

Proposition Number 2
(SJR 18)

SJR 18 proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit the legislature from imposing a tax on the realized or unrealized capital gains of an individual, family, estate, or trust. This prohibition would include a tax on the sale or transfer of a capital asset that is payable by an individual, family, estate, or trust selling or transferring the asset. The proposed amendment would not prohibit the imposition or change in the rate of an ad valorem tax on property; a sales tax on the sale of goods or services; or a use tax on the storage, use, or other consumption in this state of goods or services.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment prohibiting the imposition of a tax on the realized or unrealized capital gains of an individual, family, estate, or trust."**

Proposition Number 3
(SJR 5)

SJR 5 proposes a constitutional amendment to require the denial of bail pending trial for persons accused of certain criminal offenses. The proposed amendment would apply only to a person accused of committing one or more of the following offenses: murder; capital murder; aggravated assault if the person caused serious bodily injury to another, as defined by law, or the person used a firearm, club, knife, or explosive weapon, as those terms are defined by law, during the commission of the assault; aggravated kidnapping; aggravated robbery; aggravated sexual assault; indecency with a child; trafficking of persons; or continuous trafficking of persons. Under the proposed amendment, a person accused of one or more of these offenses must be denied bail pending trial if the attorney representing the state demonstrates by a preponderance of the evidence that the granting of bail is insufficient to reasonably prevent the person's willful nonappearance in court; or the attorney representing the state demonstrates by clear and convincing evidence that the granting of bail is insufficient to reasonably ensure the safety of the community, law enforcement, and the victim of the alleged offense. A judge or magistrate who grants bail to a person accused of one or more of these offenses under the proposed amendment must set bail and impose conditions of release necessary only to reasonably prevent the person's willful nonappearance in court and ensure the safety of the community, law enforcement, and the victim of the alleged offense. The judge or magistrate must also prepare a written order that includes findings of fact and a statement explaining the justification for the grant of bail. The proposed amendment specifies that it may not be construed to limit any right a person has under other law to contest a denial of bail or to contest the amount of bail set by a judge or magistrate or to require any testimonial evidence before a judge or magistrate makes a bail decision with respect to a person to whom the amendment applies. A judge or magistrate who determines whether a preponderance of the evidence or clear and convincing evidence exists under the proposed amendment shall consider the likelihood of the person's willful nonappearance in court; the nature and circumstances of the alleged offense; the safety of the community, law enforcement, and the victim of the alleged offense; and the criminal history of the person. A person is entitled to be represented by counsel at a hearing described by the proposed amendment.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment requiring the denial of bail under certain circumstances to persons accused of certain offenses punishable as a felony."**

Proposition Number 4
(HJR 7)

HJR 7 proposes a constitutional amendment to dedicate a portion of the revenue derived from state sales and use taxes to the Texas water fund and to provide for the allocation and use of that revenue. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to allocate and transfer funds to accounts administered by the Texas Water Development Board. The proposed amendment also allows the legislature to suspend allocations of funds to these accounts during a state of disaster declared under Chapter 418 of the Texas Government Code.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment to dedicate a portion of the revenue derived from state sales and use taxes to the Texas water fund and to provide for the allocation and use of that revenue."**

Proposition Number 5
(HJR 99)

HJR 99 proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to exempt animal feed held by the owner for retail sale from ad valorem taxation. The proposed amendment would authorize the legislature to provide additional eligibility requirements for the exemption.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation tangible personal property consisting of animal feed held by the owner of the property for sale at retail."**

Proposition Number 6
(HJR 4)

HJR 4 proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit the legislature from enacting a law that imposes an occupation tax on a registered securities market operator or a tax on a securities transaction conducted by a registered securities market operator. The proposed amendment would not prohibit the imposition of a general business tax measured by business activity, a tax on the production of minerals, a tax on insurance premiums, a sales and use tax on tangible personal property or services, or a fee based on the cost of processing or creating documents. The proposed amendment would also not prohibit a change in the rate of a tax in existence on January 1, 2026.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment prohibiting the legislature from enacting a law imposing an occupation tax on certain entities that enter into transactions conveying securities or imposing a tax on certain securities transactions."**

Proposition Number 7
(HJR 133)

HJR 133 proposes a constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to give surviving spouses of United States armed services veterans a property tax exemption on their residence homestead. The proposed amendment would exempt all or part of the property tax on the spouse's residence homestead if the veteran died from a condition or disease presumed under federal law to be service-related. The exemption would apply only to a surviving spouse who has not remarried since the veteran's death.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: **"The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a veteran who died as a result of a condition or disease that is presumed under federal law to have been service-connected."**

Proposition Number 8
(HJR 2)

HJR 2 proposes a constitutional amendment to prohibit the legislature from imposing a state tax on a deceased individual's estate because of the individual's death, including an estate, inheritance, or death tax. The proposed amendment would prohibit the legislature from imposing a state tax on the transfer of an estate, inheritance, legacy, succession, or gift from an individual, family, estate, or trust, including generation-skipping transfers, if the tax was not in effect on January 1, 2025. The proposed amendment would also prohibit the legislature from

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