

CHARLIE JENKINS

Chief Executive Officer,
Port Houston

Biography

Charlie Jenkins was appointed Chief Executive Officer of Port Houston in April 2024. In this role, he leads advocacy and stewardship of the Houston Ship Channel and port region, by far the nation's busiest waterway and largest port. More than 200 public and private facilities conduct business alongside the Channel and together support nearly \$1 trillion in annual economic value.

Continuing Port Houston's long history as the voice of the Houston Ship Channel region, Mr. Jenkins routinely engages with federal and state elected and agency officials to emphasize the importance of the Houston port region to the Texas and U.S. economies and to garner support for its continued growth and competitiveness. Under his leadership, the Port Houston team has secured significant federal and state funding and improved policy alignment for the port, the Houston Ship Channel, and maritime commerce.

Mr. Jenkins also oversees the efficient and effective operations of Port Houston's eight public facilities, which handle a diverse range of imports and exports spanning containerized, general, bulk, and breakbulk cargoes, and include the area's largest breakbulk facilities and two of the most efficient container terminals in the nation.

Mr. Jenkins has served Port Houston for more than 35 years in many roles, beginning with his time as Port Houston's first intern. Immediately prior to the CEO role, Mr. Jenkins served as Chief Channel Infrastructure Officer, working in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to maintain and expand the Houston Ship Channel, including Project 11, the eleventh major expansion initiative. Through an innovative execution strategy, Mr. Jenkins led completion of the Port's scope – representing 76% of the Channel's length – delivering the project on time and within budget while improving efficiency for all users.

Mr. Jenkins is actively involved with a wide range of partner and industry organizations. He currently serves as an Executive Board Member of the Texas Ports Association, the TXDOT Port Authority Advisory Committee, and the Greater Houston Port Bureau. He also sits on the Texas A&M University at Galveston's Board of Visitors and is a member of the H-GAC Transportation Policy Council.

An honors graduate of Texas A&M University at Galveston, Mr. Jenkins earned a bachelor's degree in marine sciences and later completed his MBA at the University of Houston. He resides in the Clear Lake area with his wife, and they are proud parents of three and grandparents of four.