



Questions for Candidates for Lone Star College (LSC) Trustee from the Conservative Coalition of Harris County

This questionnaire has two parts; a short answer section to go onto the Voter's guide and long answer section that will be posted onto the conservative coalition of Harris County website for public viewing.

Candidate Name	Position that Candidate is Running For
Michael Stoma	Lone Star College System Board of Trustees, District 1

Short Answer Question Form: Please indicate your position with the following abbreviations. (SF-Strongly favor, F-Favor, U-Undecided, O-Oppose, SO-Strongly oppose, NR-No Response, or Yes/No)

Question	Answer
Are the Chancellor's salary and benefits adequate?	More than adequate
Should the LSC administrative overhead be reduced, and more funds directed toward teachers?	Yes
Should the LSC board trustees have term limits?	Yes
Should the LSC system expand their online college teaching programs?	Yes, absolutely

Long Answer Question Form. Please give your answer to each of the following questions and please include your rationale with each answer. Please be concise & clear.

1.	<p>Why have you entered this election?</p> <p>Answer:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase the number of full-time instructors and decrease part-time instructor engagements. 2. Implement community outreach programs with District high schools and through community organizations in providing greater educational opportunities for all District residents. 3. Assure the District is fiscally responsible by applying business justification principles to current and new initiatives. 4. Assure there is measurable cost/benefit for tax dollars collected and spent. 5. And, look for cost-cutting opportunities that may bring tax relief to tax payers.
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2. What are the two main issues facing the LSC system? What is your solution to these problems?
- Answer:**
1. Implement state-of-the-art Internet learning and instructional capabilities that leverages social media and increases service to communities instead of building more buildings.
 2. Actively engage people and civil organizations within their communities in ongoing assessment of their educational and training needs as to develop educational programs and increase student recruitment.
3. What good things are happening at LSC and should be enhanced or continued?
- Answer:**
Partnerships with businesses and labor organizations should be further developed with increased involvement by offering primary and continuous training programs targeted at local business and industry job requirements.
4. What things can the Chancellor, Executive Council and administration do to improve the LSC quality of education and communication with the college Presidents, teachers and general student population?
- Answer:**
In my opinion, sound business process management and improvement principles (those making businesses more globally competitive in operational cost reductions and innovative service offerings) should be applied to “flatten” the overall College System organizational structure, which would include active community involvement through joint citizen/college leadership teams. The concept of self-lead work teams should be employed to illuminate the hierarchy of administration. There should be no more than two layers of management between the teachers and the Chancellor.
5. What things in the LSC administration should be changed?
- Answer:** Reorganize to empower campus and instructor leadership focused on delivering excellent educational opportunities and services directly to students. I would apply sound business case principles for cost/benefit justification for all positions. In other words, each salaried position would have to qualify and quantify the value added to student learning as justification for existence.
6. Is the Chancellor’s compensation in line with job performance? Why or Why not?
- Answer:** The Chancellor’s total compensation package needs to be reevaluated in terms of the qualifiable and quantifiable value (direct contributions) he or she brings to the District’s goal of providing value-added educational opportunities to the communities it serves. Consideration should not be given to what other Community College Systems are doing. This is group think and does not reflect the specific needs of the LSC District. Its time to lead and not follow.

7. Is the administrative staffing leveling in the LSC system reasonable? Does it need to be reduced or expanded?
- Answer:** The entire organization should be evaluated and flattened using sound business process management and improvement principles (those making businesses more globally competitive in operational cost reductions and innovative service offerings). This would free operation funds to direct towards improving instructional programs and leveling teacher compensation plans.
8. What strategic changes do you think should be made in the overall academic programs at Lone Star College system? Are there areas where programs should be reduced or expanded?
- Answer:** See answer to Question 3. Technology is driving changes in our society and the world. Delivery of academic and professional training programs over the Internet, Social Media, and electronic collaboration services should be expanded. Further development of the virtual classroom where education and training can take place at any time and in any place needs to happen.
9. What can be done to save money and/or eliminate waste within the LSC system? Can any services / positions / etc. be transferred from LSC system to the private sector to save funds?
- Answer:**
1. Reorganize to eliminate administrative overhead expenses.
 2. Consolidate teaching facilities; then, sell or rent extraneous properties.
 3. Evaluate current and planned bond approved and funded projects that can't be support through business case justification.
 4. Along with reorganization efforts, certain college systems functions (e.g., facilities and grounds maintenance, certain information technology functions, etc.) could be evaluation for outsourcing if the cost/benefit is defined and can be realized.
10. Is the current funding allocation within LSC system spending categories (between administration, facilities, teachers, colleges, etc.) reasonable? Why or Why not? If not, what spending categories can be reallocated to balance efficiencies at LSC?
- Answer:** No. The entire College System educational delivery and administration systems needs major reevaluation to lower administrative and operational cost. Funds saved by these efforts should be redirected in driving new and improved education services through instruction teams aimed directly at the student. Every College System function must prove qualifiable and quantitative value to the College System's mission or it should not exist.
11. What are your thoughts toward long-term strategic objectives that the Board of Trustees should have for the LSC system?
- Answer:** The Board must set the Vision for the College System. Without a Vision, there is no alignment of goals and objective to achieve the College System's mission, which is, or should be, to delivery innovative, value-added education services to the public it serves. This vision should be really articulated to the public.

12. What is your strategy to handle the growth and changing demographics in the student population in the LSC system?

Answer:

LSC must be on the pulse of the communities that it serves through implementing more community outreach programs with District high schools and through community organizations in providing greater educational opportunities for all District residents. Also, using state-of-the-art sentiment, predictive and prescriptive analytics (like Facebook, Google, and Amazon) to describe, predict, and prescript students needs and in the development of innovative educational programs to meet those needs.

13. What role should the federal government play in funding local colleges? What should the Lone Star system do in order to get more state funding?

Answer: I prefer to accept no help from the Federal Government. Regarding State funding, the LSC System needs a formal and proactive legislative advocacy initiative that writes and leads, ongoingly, legislation through the Texas Legislature into law, which services the District's best interests. LSC doesn't have this, now. It is at a disadvantage in competing for state funding with other colleges and universities.

14. Is student performance adequate within LSC? What can be done to improve overall student performance?

Answer: Student performance measurement is more than just As, Bs, and Cs. Working with business, professional, labor, and educational organizations, LSC needs to evaluate students based on their educational goals. For example, a student who wishes to further academic achievement should be evaluated on knowledge base competencies. A student wishing specific job training achievements should be evaluated on skills-based competencies and their performance through an on-the-job-training, cooperative education, or an apprentice programs.

15. Is teacher performance adequate? If not, what can be done to improve overall teacher performance? Are teacher's salaries adequate given the expansion of the LSC system?

Answer: I believe in peer-based performance evaluations where evaluation is done by a group of equally experienced or greater experienced and knowledgeable colleagues through formal peer reviews. Performance metrics should be set through such peer review groups and reinforced through performance incentives by college policy. Instructors should be given incentives to achieve predetermined and agreed performance metrics or goals. No, LSC teacher's salaries are not adequate across the entire faculty population, full and part time.

16. If in the future, the LSC system needed to make cutbacks to balance the budget, what two areas would you cut first?

Answer: Administrative and operational overhead costs. I can cut 15% - 20% off the top without any organizational changes or reduction in services. This is what I do in my profession as a Project Manager – I save my clients millions of dollars.

17. There is an increasing trend of online classes for colleges. Should LSC system expand its online classes program? What should be the long-term strategy for the LSC system in terms of internet learning?

Answer: Implement state-of-the-art Internet learning and instructional capabilities that leverages social media and increases service to communities instead of building more buildings.

BY RETURNING THIS QUESTIONNAIRE, THE CANDIDATE ASSUMES FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL ANSWERS TO THIS QUESTIONNAIRE. THE ANSWERS ON THE FOREGOING REFLECT THE CANDIDATE'S BEST EFFORTS TO ANSWER THIS QUESTIONNAIRE HONESTLY AND DIRECTLY.

Once this questionnaire has been completed, please email it to: alex@cchc-pac.org.

Please note: You must return your questionnaire from the email address to which it was sent. Questionnaires returned from any other email address will be considered fraudulent and will not be recorded and no answers will be published in the voter's guide. CCHC deems a return from the proper email address as authentication of the correct respondent.

Stoma files for Lone Star College Board Trustee - Cy-Fair Texas

Michael (Mike) Stoma, a former educator and native Houstonian, has filed for election to the District 1 seat on the Lone Star College System Board of Trustees.

"I'm proud to be a former student and teacher of Lone Star College and look forward to giving voice to Cy-Fair businesses and its diverse residents on issues governing the College District," says Stoma.

Stoma taught electronics engineering technology at Lone Star College, formerly known as North Harris County College. He is a former student having attended the College in its infancy when classes were held in Aldine High School before a single campus was built. He has teaching experience at the University of Houston, Downtown, in Business and Computer Information Systems, as adjunct faculty, also.

Stoma is a career business and technology consultant who has a history of public service with the Texas House of Representatives and the Houston Police Department. He is a US Air Force Vietnam Veteran.

"My business, education, and public service experiences gives unique qualifications for service as a Lone Star College Board of Trustees member," said Stoma.

Stoma holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) Degree from the University of St. Thomas and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Sam Houston State University. He is, currently, engaged in continuing education at the University of Illinois in Management Information Systems.

Lone Star College System District 1 includes the Cy-Fair area.

"My commitment to the citizens of Cy-Fair is to assure educational value for their tax dollars and help provide the best educational opportunities possible for them and their children in jobs training and higher education advancement," says Stoma.





VOTE

Michael (Mike) Stoma

Lone Star College Board of Trustees

District 1 - CyFair

- ✓ Native Houstonian
- ✓ Business IT and Technology Professional
- ✓ United States Air Force Vietnam Veteran
- ✓ Former Lone Star College Teacher
- ✓ Former University of Houston, Downtown, Teacher
- ✓ Former Staff Texas House of Representatives
- ✓ Graduate of The University of St. Thomas, Houston, MBA
- ✓ Graduate of Sam Houston State University, BA
- ✓ Graduate of Aldine Douglas MacArthur High School

Early Vote Oct. 22nd

Vote Nov. 6th

PAID FOR BY MICHAEL STOMA CAMPAIGN