



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
Mike Sullivan	District 8

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?	NR
Should the LSC administrative overhead be reduced, and more funds directed toward teachers?	SF
Should the LSC board trustees have term limits?	SF
Should the LSC system expand their online college teaching programs?	SF

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.

Why have you entered this election?	Answer: I am a product of Lone Star, having graduated in 2012, followed by a bachelor degree from UH-Downtown in 2015. I will take my decades of private sector experience and elected service to the board. I do not view this as a resume building opportunity, or a chance to simply remain in elected office. I strongly believe in the mission of community
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2.

What are the two main issues facing the LSC system? What is your solution to these problems?	Answer: Enrollment growth and recruitment of qualified faculty are two main issues facing LSC. To handle enrollment growth, a strong push to more online courses will be beneficial. To handle the recruitment of qualified faculty issue, offering more opportunities, training, and requirements to teach online will entice prospective faculty.
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3.

What good things are happening at LSC and should be enhanced or continued?	Answer: LSC has a stellar reputation in their service areas. They have a multitude of course and certificate offerings, are affordable, and give opportunities to both high school graduates and students still in high school. I strongly support their dual credit programs, as well as their workforce programs.
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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: The current organizational structure allows for communication from Chancellor to Exec Council, and then to administration. However, college presidents are generally free to run their campuses. A committed effort must be made to ensure full alignment from Chancellor to teachers and general student population.
5. What things in the LSC administration should be changed?
Answer: Operational excellence can result in cost efficiencies. This should be a high priority, as well as an ongoing effort to reduce costs where possible.
6. Is the Chancellor's compensation in line with job performance? Why or Why not?
Answer: I have not seen the Chancellor's recent contract renewal, and until I do, it would be unwise for me to comment.
7. Is the administrative staffing leveling in the LSC system reasonable? Does it need to be reduced or expanded?
Answer: I am always in support of more resources going to the classroom/teacher/educator.
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: There must be academic options for students to pursue workforce certificates, associate degrees, and complete core curriculum that transfers seamlessly to full four-year universities. The college must be nimble and flexible enough to shift resources to match private sector job requirements. For instance, oil and gas technology, health, auto tech, IT, cybersecurity, etc.
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: The system currently allows outside vendors to manage food concessions, the bookstore, grounds maintenance, and other services. Contracts for services should be evaluated for the highest and best value, whether within the system or by outside vendors.
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: This requires a deep dive into the budget, and should be an ongoing process. As external forces and conditions change, budgets must be adjusted to achieve the highest efficiency possible. This benefits students, taxpayers, employers, teachers, and other stakeholders.

11. What are your thoughts toward long-term strategic objectives that the Board of Trustees should have for the LSC system?
Answer: While I support the Chancellor in his work, it is the board's responsibility to set policy, and lead the long-term vision for the system. Strategic planning and goal setting for student success, utilization of resources, and use of taxpayer funds has to be a priority.
12. What is your strategy to handle the growth and changing demographics in the student population in the LSC system?
Answer: Not every student is a candidate for a four-year degree. Many are best suited, and desire, an associate degree that is affordable and allows them to learn job skills that enable them to enter the job market prepared to work. The system budget has to allow for workforce training, dual credit, core curriculum, and certificate training to handle growth of student enrollment.
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: There are federal funds that flow to community colleges for programming. President Trump has recently signed an Executive Order calling for a national strategy to address urgent workforce issues. This should allow us to seek assistance from DC, and to help our president fulfill his goals. With respect to state funding, it is an ongoing effort to ensure that it is there for our system. However, the system has a good record of accomplishment of working with the Texas Workforce Commission on funding for specific funding.
14. Is student performance adequate within LSC? What can be done to improve overall student performance?
Answer:
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: My experiences with Lone Star teachers was very positive. Student surveys are one method that can be utilized to rate teachers and their performance. A large majority of teachers at Lone Star are adjuncts, which are not high paying positions. However, most adjuncts teach to supplement salaries from other work. A careful cost analysis must be performed before salaries can be evaluated for increases.
16. If in the future, the LSC system needed to make cutbacks to balance the budget, what two areas would you cut first?
Answer: There is a natural tendency to look first at administrative support when costs need to be cut. With a goal of ensuring student success, efforts to maintain resources in the classroom (or online) must be given highest priority. Facilities, administration, and new projects that increase operational costs are areas that could be looked at for possible reductions.
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: Lone Star has a robust offering of online classes. Efforts to continue to support online learning should be a priority and goal of the system.

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.



Mike Sullivan has the experience in both the public and private sector to be a faithful steward of our tax dollars and help shepherd the largest community college system Texas.

I'm proud to endorse Mike for Lone Star College System Board of Trustees, District 8 position.