



## 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
Prof. G. Puente	LSC Board of Trustees - 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?	O
Should the LSC administrative overhead be reduced, and more funds directed toward teachers?	F
Should the LSC board trustees have term limits?	T
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.*

- Why have you entered this election?

**Answer:** To make a difference in the form of bringing innovative ideas that would lower my tax burden as a contributor, and expand the student's experience at Lone Star College.
- What are the two main issues facing the LSC system? What is your solution to these problems?

**Answer:** To me, the main issue is Brand Recognition and Cost Efficiency. As an LSC Marketing Professor, we are not doing well in our brand recognition. We have an enrollment higher than Texas A&M and UH yet we are not well known throughout the state. We could make a big difference by spending effectively on a strategy that could expand the name of our college.
- What good things are happening at LSC and should be enhanced or continued?

**Answer:** LSC is a well-funded institution that has some facilities which are in better shape than most 4 year institutions. So I believe the facilities are above average from that of other 2 year colleges.

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:** Introduce my idea of LSC Football. This means to join the NJCAA as one of the biggest 2-year colleges to compete in the organization. Spend less on the 3.9M marketing budget, and invest on Athletics.
5. What things in the LSC administration should be changed?  
**Answer:** Less positions as Vice-Chancellors, and less President positions. This could easily open up the budget for better projects.
6. Is the Chancellor's compensation in line with job performance? Why or Why not?  
**Answer:** I have to further look into the role of the Chancellor and the comparable salaries for one. But there are definitely too many President and Vice-Chancellor positions in Lone Star College.
7. Is the administrative staffing leveling in the LSC system reasonable? Does it need to be reduced or expanded?  
**Answer:** I believe with the effective use of technology in communication tools among employees, we can reduce the number of Administrative positions.
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:** More online and hybrid classes should be offered by LSC. Each college could also share resources among the rest. Meaning that the Business departments should share one major Marketing, Management programs. As of right now, some of those programs are struggling in student enrollment.
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:** I would need to look for more specifics on transferring jobs to a private sector. But I would consider private enterprises taking over some services. This could also be in the realm of Online education as far as educational software maintenance.
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:** My biggest change to the annual budget is to reduce the Marketing and Communications department by 2m from 3.9M. This would reduce the need for billboards. And reinvest that into an Athletics program the likes of JUCO football. This would serve as the branding needed for the college. This is exactly how major college programs operate.

11. What are your thoughts toward long-term strategic objectives that the Board of Trustees should have for the LSC system?  
**Answer:** It should be focused on name recognition and LSC Online. We should compete as the go-to brand name for 2-year online education across the state. This means students from El Paso to Orange, TX. An out of district tuition from an online student is substantially less than a WGU/ Univ. of Phoenix tuition. There should be no reason to lose that market share in Texas.
12. What is your strategy to handle the growth and changing demographics in the student population in the LSC system?  
**Answer:** Introducing the JUCO Football program. I may sound like a broken record, but my Alma Mater (Univ. of Alabama) benefits from over 50% of its enrollment being out of state. This is nothing more than the success of the football program as the flag bearer of the brand name. At this moment, more people in the U.S. recognizes Blinn College and Tyler JC than Lone Star College. Both colleges smaller than LSC-Cy Fair in enrollment. This is due to their nationally recognized football programs.
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:** That should be on a need basis. I believe that LSC is well enough funded by the federal government since most of its funding comes from the students and property taxes. "Take only what you need".
14. Is student performance adequate within LSC? What can be done to improve overall student performance?  
**Answer:** I believe the best way to judge a 2-year college is its transfer rates. Most of our students go to UH, A&M and UHD. We need to see more students going to UT and Rice as well. Overall, LSC does do well in its transfer rates.
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 do not have access to much data on the faculty. I do know firsthand that full-time faculty positions are limited. I have only seen 2 full-time Management/Marketing open position since working adjunct since 2015 in the entire system. And there has been an increase in enrollment at LSC since then.
16. If in the future, the LSC system needed to make cutbacks to balance the budget, what two areas would you cut first?  
**Answer:** I would need to look further into this question. But I would concentrate on reducing the taxpayer burden, so this will be one of my points in the office. I am a Real Estate Broker as my full-time job, and I know property values have increased.

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:** Absolutely, this to me is one of my platforms. Again, we need to market LSC as the main 2-year online college of Texas. This should be easy with the name of Lone Star College. But this would require that we hire full-time online faculty that would work from home for 75% of the regular salary. This also means that we would encourage Live online classes that are synchronous. This would make supervision of these faculty members easy to manage.

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Once this questionnaire has been completed, please email it to: [alex@cchc-pac.org](mailto:alex@cchc-pac.org).

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