



## Questions for Candidates for City Council from the Conservative Coalition of Harris County

This questionnaire will be posted onto the Conservative Coalition of Harris County website for public viewing ([www.cchc-pac.org](http://www.cchc-pac.org)).

Candidate Name	Position that Candidate is Running For
Julian Ramirez	At-Large Position 1

Candidates please give your answer to each of the following questions and include your rationale with each answer. Please be concise and clear.

1. Why are you running for City Council? If elected, what will be your priorities?

**Answer:** I'm running to serve, plain and simple. I am semi-retired, so I don't need the job. Nor am I seeking this office as a springboard to something else. I believe that my background in the local criminal justice system and desire to fight waste, abuse, and cronyism in city government would benefit Houston residents. My priorities will be to improve the basic city services we all expect: public safety, adequate roads and infrastructure, and protection from flooding. I will also seek to make the city more business-friendly.
2. What experience or skills have prepared you to serve as a city council member? What differentiates you from the other candidates and/or council members?

**Answer:** I have a juris doctorate from the University of Texas School of Law and 33 years' experience as an attorney. I have extensive experience reading and analyzing statutes. My legal training and experience have taught me to fully consider the intended and unintended consequences of a contemplated course of action. My many years' experience prosecuting violent crimes, public corruption, and civil rights violations will give me unique insights as the council tackles public safety issues. My experience fighting for victims in the courts has prepared me to fight for Houston residents.

3. What is the effectiveness of the current system for City of Houston residents to report issues/file complaints? How can this system be improved to better serve residents?

**Answer:** The elements of an effective system of making complaints and getting issues resolved seem to be in place with the 311 help system as the initial contact and the councilmembers as a backup contact. Ultimately, effectiveness depends on the commitment and ability of individuals within the system to be responsive. As a general observation, sometimes a given area of the city is less favored by the mayor, who ultimately controls the purse strings. This can sometimes occur if the district councilmember or the residents of the area are less supportive of the mayor's initiatives that the mayor would like. If the council were made more powerful relative to the mayor, then this might reduce this shortchanging of certain areas. The upcoming ballot measure to allow three councilmembers to place an item on the agenda is a step in the right direction.

4. How would you characterize the funding of the following items; Please rank selections, check funding boxes below and provide a short explanation of your reasoning in answer section box:

	Over-Funded / Adequate / Under-Funded		
<u>  4  </u> Solid Waste Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>  7  </u> Parks and Recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>  1  </u> Houston Police Department	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>  2  </u> Houston Fire Department	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>  6  </u> Houston Health Department	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>  8  </u> Municipal Courts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u> 10  </u> Libraries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>  3  </u> Public Works	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>  5  </u> Technology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>  9  </u> Conventions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Answer:** Given the city's dire financial health as we approach the much talked-about fiscal cliff, all departments should be considered overfunded. We must prioritize finding areas where waste can be eliminated, and other cost savings can be achieved.

5. Crime problem in Houston--can the police force be increased? Immigration impact--should Houston be a sanctuary city?

**Answer:** The size of the police force must be increased through more academy classes and measures to encourage experienced officers to stay. More officers will reduce response times and increase visibility, which should have a deterrent effect on crime. Additionally, the Forensic Science Center (crime lab) must be adequately funded to reduce the large backlog, which slows the county and district court system and leads to more crime.

6.	Do you support amending the City Charter to allow council members to add items to the meeting agendas?
	<b>Answer:</b> Absolutely.

7.	Do you support the proposed Hospital Bond issue for \$2.5 billion dollars?
	<b>Answer:</b> No.

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](mailto: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.