



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).

Candidate Name	Position that Candidate is Running For
Kendall Baker	Council Member 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: As a native Houstonian, a current elected official to HISD, a Republican precinct chair, an officer of the HCRP, and gubernatorial appointee, I'm running because it's an open seat and I have nearly 40 years of public service experience to offer to our citizens. I have developed a passion for public service and helping my fellow citizens. Instead of answering special interests' groups, I will be accountable to the taxpayers. Now is the time to re-elect experienced conservative leadership this time to City Hall. If elected my priorities will be to

A. Decrease crime by ensuring our police department is fully funded and supported. To support the use of technology that works, for example consider incorporating the use of drones and "live 911" which has been proven to improve the response time to crimes in progress. We should also correct the crime-lab problems. Also improve HPD officers morale and add more officers to patrol our streets.

B. To mitigate flooding by reviewing and continuing projects involving our storm water drainage systems including our bayous and to ensure that when heavy rain and flooding occurs, the water is draining off in an efficient and expeditious manner. Also by advocating to maintain and/or create as much green space as possible.

C. To maintain a transparent, healthy and fiscally sound budget by requiring often and routine updates from our Mayor, City Controller, Finance Department Director and others, so that my office will not only offer feedback however be committed to transparency to the taxpayers as to the current state of financial affairs. Also, to make sure that monies collected, i.e. drainage fee, are being used to address problems as initially promised to taxpayers. It is important that taxpayers know how every dollar is spent and be a whistle-blower against corruption.

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: First, I have nearly 30 years of direct City of Houston employment experience which includes 25 years in upper management including working directly for the Office of the Mayor. No other candidate in my race has that experience. Secondly, I am electable. Although the Texas Education Agency has intervened, I was honored to be elected as a Trustee for the Houston Independent School District in 2021 where I still serve in an advisory capacity as needed by the appointed Board of Managers. In that race, I successfully defeated a democrat incumbent. As a Trustee, I had the pleasure of championing conservative causes like stopping the mask-mandate, speaking out against CRT and against the wrongful indoctrination of innocent children. I also have decades of hands-on volunteer experience with several organizations including HPD, Houston Ministers Against Crime, Harris County Republican Party, Homeowners associations, churches, civic clubs, etc. I was also appointed by Governor Abbot to serve on the Southern Regional Education Board. This experience has prepared me to work effectively beginning on day one should I be elected to serve as council member. Your group endorsed me in my previous election, and I hope to earn your endorsement again.

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: During my tenure with the city, I helped create, design and manage the 311 Help and Information system. Currently and overall, it is a great system, especially compared to having to call nearly 600 separate telephone numbers before its implementation in the year 2000. However, with forever advancing technology, there is always room for improvement. For starters, I would like the departments to improve methods of relaying real time updates to a service request so that citizens will receive more accurate updates and information regarding any service request/complaints and avoid duplicity. Secondly, I would suggest that 311 telecommunicators receive regular refresher customer service training to ensure that each contact with a citizen is always professional and courteous. Thirdly, our permitting system needs an overall. It takes way too long to receive building permits. Finally, since Houston is the most diverse city in the nation, I would also suggest that various languages are revisited and updated in 311 more often to ensure effective translations are made so that all citizens are getting the information they deserve.

With regards to the 911 system that I also managed during my tenure with the city, I would suggest reviewing and implementing any newer technology that would improve the response times or police and fire emergencies. For example, some agencies are using "live 911" which allows a police officer to receive/hear a 911 emergency caller directly inside their police car.

Again, because technology changes rapidly, its important to keep up to date with latest technology for faster responses, accuracy and proactive purposes.

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		
___ Solid Waste Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
___ Parks and Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
___ Houston Police Department	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
___ Houston Fire Department	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
___ Houston Health Department	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
___ Municipal Courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
___ Libraries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
___ Public Works	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
___ Technology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
___ Conventions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Answer:

Solid waste – Adequate yet mismanaged namely because we are one of a few large cities that do not charge a fee for garbage pick-up. This service could also be outsourced.

Parks and Rec – Adequate because many updates to parks are done using private and public funds under the 50/50 park upgrade program.

Houston Police Department - Under-Funded due to retirements out pacing hiring new officers leaving fewer officers to patrol our streets.

Houston Fire Department – Under-Funded due to the mayor refusing to grant back pay that courts awarded HFD in a lawsuit. This department generates revenue that is not adequately sent back to their department. Also HFD has poor and inoperable equipment in need of replacing as well as the lowest starting salaries in our region.

Houston Health Department – Adequate or Over-Funded, this department receives federal dollars as well however could be managed a lot better.

Municipal Courts - Adequate, this department generates revenue that's pretty much appropriately funneled back to their operations.

Libraries – Adequate to the best of my knowledge.

Public Works – Adequate, the department generates revenue that benefits the department, especially the newest flood mitigation projects. I once worked for Public Works and we were known for managing our budget efficiently.

Technology – Adequate yet mismanaged to the best of my knowledge, I'm hearing that our information security or fire walls are vulnerable for cyber-attack.

Conventions – Adequate. Also I believe it helps that services have been out-sourced.

Overall, I believe that the monies are there however dollars are not managed well enough. My most recent experience in managing HISD's 2.3 billion dollar budget has prepared me to be more fiscally conservative with the existing City of Houston's budget.

5. Crime problem in Houston--can the police force be increased? Immigration impact--should Houston be a sanctuary city?
Answer: A. Yes as mentioned above in question 1A.. B. No. Sanctuary cities are notably crumbling around our nation.
6. Do you support amending the City Charter to allow council members to add items to the meeting agendas?
Answer: Yes – for the first time in Houston, city council will have potential to impact and decrease our strong mayor form of governing by adding items to the agenda.
7. Do you support the proposed Hospital Bond issue for \$2.5 billion dollars?
Answer: Yes. The Harris Health hospital system has been decaying structurally for a very long time now and more importantly my main endorser, Commissioner Tom Ramsey, our lone republican commissioner voted in favor of it because as I understood, he also receives what he advocated for which had to do with some remodeling to reduce the strain on the hospital’s emergency rooms. While I don’t support tax increases, it is said that the cost is \$6 per month tax increase on a home that’s \$300K which is not terribly bad as we factor in the overall need and public safety issues of our entire city and county where more and more people are relocating to. I stress that good management of county’s budget will be key if this item passes along with the successful and timely implementation and management of the various construction projects. Additionally, as my constituents trusted most of my decisions while serving on HISD’s board, as a conservative, I trust Tom’s judgement on this one.

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.



Kendall Baker is a native Houstonian raised in Fontaine Place located in northeast Houston. Baker has an extensive education and most recently earned his Doctor of Philosophy in Organizational Communication from Covenant International University.

Baker is a dedicated member of his community, with nearly 40 years of public service. Baker retired from his position as a Division Manager for the Administration and Regulatory Affairs Department, Operations Division. Baker is equipped with an in-depth knowledge of management and staff development along with contact center operations and problem-solving abilities. He has been very active on the political circuit, championing conservative causes in his pursuit of elected positions as the Mayor of Houston, state representative, city council District F and eventually elected in 2021 as Houston ISD Trustee VI. He's also a Precinct Chair and Sergeant-At-Arms for the Harris County Republican Party.

When it comes to serving the community, Kendall has answered the call of many needs of the city, whether it be through his ministry or his selfless service. Currently, he serves on the Houston ISD School Board as Secretary and has previously assisted HISD's south area superintendent with community issues. He formerly served as Director of Field Operations for the Houston Area Pastor Council and Chairman of the Houston Police and Clergy Alliance. He has been a devoted member of Houston Ministers Against Crime, which helps many entities including the Houston Independent School District, assisting the administration, parents, and students in crime prevention on school campuses and around the city.

Baker has always had a passion for service and the people of his community. While working for the city, Baker simultaneously pursued his call to ministry. Baker is an ordained minister and the founding pastor of a local church. In addition to his ministry in Houston and around the country, Baker also ministers around the world in South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana, and the United Kingdom.

Houston City Council At Large Position 1 is in the market for new representation. The city of Houston is searching for a highly qualified, compassionate, and empathetic leader.

The focus of our new council member should be on fiscal responsibility, budget transparency, fully funding our police, and improving flood infrastructure. Houston voters must elect the very best candidate who has experience in local leadership and community involvement. We believe the best candidate is Kendall Baker.

A few of Baker's key endorsements include, Harris County Commissioner Tom Ramsey, Harris County Precinct Chairs Mike Bercu, Jim McSpadden, Fort Bend ISD Republican Trustee Sonya Jones, Brazoria County Republican Precinct Chair Elizabeth Day, West Houston Business Owner Margaret Forrestal, and a long list of pastors, community leaders and friends.

Baker is a loving father to his daughter and resides in Houston.

To Donate Online: <https://bakerforhouston.com/donate/>

To Donate via Check: Payable to: Kendall Baker Campaign P.O. Box 772855 Houston, Texas 77215