



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
Richard Cantu	Houston City Council, At-Large Position 3

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 want to take my 30-year public service career to City Hall to work to make our city's neighborhood's safe and clean, to improve our public infrastructure, and invest in our community's youth like the future of our city depends on it. I will work in partnership with our first responders, neighborhood leaders, business owners, educators, pastors, and community-based non-profits to transform our neighborhoods to be safer, cleaner, more prosperous and where our youth are provided opportunities to have a successful and productive future.

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 the Education, Training, Experience and Skills to hit the ground running on day one to be an effective council member. I started my career in the Parks & Rec Dept. working with at-risk youth in Houston's Gulfton neighborhood, and after several other successful positions, I was appointed Director of the Mayor's Citizens' Assistance Office (Mayor Brown & Mayor White), where I proved to be an effective and responsive leader of city services. For the past 15 years, I have run one of the largest Municipal Management District's in Houston/Harris County (East Aldine District), where we have taken back our neighborhoods from the gangs and drug dealers and are investing in infrastructure improvements and in our Youth's successful future! I have a BA in Political Science from University of Houston, and an MA in Public Administration from University of St. Thomas,

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 city's 311 system for the intake of city's residents complaints and concerns is a good start, however there needs to be an external audit to assess the effectiveness of the database and the call takers' training and responsiveness.

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

Answer: The priorities of city government are public safety, streets, garbage pick-up, parks, public health, libraries, courts, etc. - in that order of importance! If we focus on safe neighborhoods, clean streets and vibrant greenspace/park programming, the conventions will come!

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

Answer: Yes, the police force must be increased, however through smart community policing, we can have citizens, businesses be a force multiplier and be smarter on crime. HPD should focus on local and state laws.

6. Do you support amending the City Charter to allow council members to add items to the meeting agendas?

Answer: Yes, council members should be able to place items on the agenda for consideration by the Mayor and council. The absolute power of the Mayor's seat should be limited to allow for a more democratic approach to city government.

7. Do you support the proposed Hospital Bond issue for \$2.5 billion dollars?

Answer: Yes, the city's medical resources are far too concentrated in the Southside of town, so an important investment to bring a level-1 trauma center to the Northside is a great idea and would serve our city/county well!

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.