



## 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
Fred Flickinger	Houston City Council District E

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:**

Politics has always captivated my interest, from watching the news to digging into local issues that affect the people of Houston. As I've grown older, this interest sparked a true passion; a passion to get involved and to serve. Currently, I am on the Senate District 4 Advisory Board, have served on the Kingwood Tea Party Leadership Board for a decade, was a past president of The Lake Houston Pachyderm Club and have been a delegate in the last six election cycles at both the District and State Republican Conventions. As I've dedicated more and more time getting involved in my community at the grassroots level, I have serious concerns about the future of Houston and its current direction. Most significantly, the misallocating of tax resources by neglecting to prioritize public safety, flooding and infrastructure. Rather than managing expenses appropriately, the City focuses on creative ways to generate additional revenue from Houston constituents. The City needs to focus solely on their core responsibilities and managing their expenses. District E needs someone that will voice these concerns and work to affect change on current and future issues. A vote for me this November by constituents will be a vote to finally restore common-sense leadership to our city government.

If elected, my top priorities will be public safety, flooding and infrastructure, and restoring fiscal responsibility.

Public Safety

Public safety must be a top priority in District E, as it is the foundation upon which all other aspects of our community are built. By working together to create a safe and secure environment, we can ensure that our neighborhoods thrive, and our families are able to live, work, and play without fear. This starts with hiring additional police officers and firefighters, implementing more community policing programs and increasing police presence in high crime areas. I will partner with

law enforcement officials to make sure they receive the necessary resources and are equipped to tackle increased crime in our city.

#### Enhance Mitigation & Infrastructure Improvements

The City needs to be vigilant when it comes to enhancing mitigation and working collaboratively with Harris County Flood control. Improvement projects to the Lake Houston Dam are currently in the works. It is imperative that funding remains secured in order to bring these projects to completion to decrease flood events like Hurricane Harvey.

In addition, our roads are deteriorating at a faster rate than they are being replaced. The typical lifespan of a road is forty years which requires 2.5% of road miles to be replaced every year. The City is nowhere near that and the number of road miles being replaced annually is trending in the wrong direction.

Thousands of miles of roadways and waterways connect Houston with the rest of the world to make it the economic powerhouse that it is. Unfortunately, that same infrastructure has continued to erode over time. If elected to serve on City Council, you can guarantee I will be investing in innovative flood mitigation projects, along with continuing investment in maintenance and roadway expansions. I am committed to making sure Houston continues to be accessible for all residents.

#### Restoring Fiscal Responsibility

As a lifelong conservative, I believe in reigning in government spending to the essential duties of the city. You can count on me to proactively scrutinize the City of Houston finances from a business point of view, while simultaneously ensuring the city is as business friendly as possible. This will in turn create an environment where businesses thrive and additional sales and property taxes flow into the City. It's about eliminating wasteful and unnecessary spending, and being a good fiscal steward.

Houston is now the 4th largest city in the Country and our city's budget has grown to over \$6 billion dollars. Unfortunately, as city leadership continues to allocate millions of dollars to fund pet projects, it is the taxpayers who bear the cost of these ideas. Amid rising inflation and increased gas prices, Houston residents deserve a government that understands their struggles. Implementing more efficient budget management and reducing wasteful spending can help restore fiscal responsibility.

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 will use my over 35+ years of business expertise, management, and leadership to focus on running our city in the most efficient way possible. I am an owner of Flickinger Machine and prior to managing the family business, I was an executive for a logistics company for 27 years. Within that company, I was Director of Operations with responsibilities including overseeing sites throughout 10 states,

managing over 300 direct and indirect reports, and a budget in excess of \$30 million per year. If elected, I will use my business experience to focus on running our city in the most efficient way possible. I have also immersed myself in the community by attending meetings on governmental affairs, TIRZ-10 meetings, Positive Interaction Program meetings with local police officers, SuperNeighborhood meetings, Lake Houston Dam meetings and local community neighborhood meetings in order to gain knowledge and listen to District E constituents.

My extensive business expertise sets me apart and provides me with a different perspective when making key decisions to improve the lives of the people in the district. The City of Houston has plenty of revenue, it simply is not being managed properly. We need experience in managing budgets and finding innovative solutions to existing problems. My entire adult life has been spent doing exactly this; so I understand the unique challenges I will face at City Hall. If elected, I will use my years of business experience to focus on running our city in the most efficient way possible. My campaign is about bringing the city government “back to basics” by returning our focus to public safety, prioritizing flooding and infrastructure improvements and restoring fiscal responsibility. District E needs someone who will voice concerns, interact, listen, and work to effect change on the issues that matter most.

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 of Houston launched an improved 311 system in 2021 that provided Houstonians three ways to report issues and complaints through a smart phone app, a web portal via a virtual agent, and through the call center. While these have provided additional avenues to report and request information, taxpayers feel their needs are still not being met. The problem is not on the reporting side of this process, it is the actual resolving of complaints. What is clear in the 311 data is the inadequate execution of issues and complaints. This process can be improved by refining the response time and prioritization of the issues in order to meet the needs of constituents.

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>  7  </u> Parks and Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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>  9  </u> Municipal Courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>  8  </u> Libraries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>  4  </u> Public Works	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>  5  </u> Technology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u> 10  </u> Conventions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Answer:**  
 My ranking of the selections are the reflection of what constituents in the City of Houston are looking to be a priority.

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

**Answer:**  
 Crime is a problem and the police force can be and needs to be increased; however, this requires the City of Houston to make it the number one priority through additional funding and support. I am a strong supporter of prioritizing public safety and would support measures to increase police protection for our city. Illegal immigration has increased crime in our city and therefore the City of Houston should not be a sanctuary city.

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

**Answer:**  
 I not only support the City Charter, but advocate for others to support and vote for the City to amend its charter, which allows City of Houston Council members to place items on the council's weekly agenda. Currently, the mayor has sole discretion on determining what agenda items are allowed and/or not allowed on the agenda. This is a concern as the mayor has full authority to block issues from coming to the table for discussion and this referendum would decentralize the mayor's authority. This referendum, if passed by City of Houston voters in November, simply allows items for consideration to be placed on the agenda by council members, as long as they have the backing of at least two other council members. City Council members are the voice of their constituents. Allowing their voice to be heard in this manner, is allowing Houston constituents a voice.

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

**Answer:**

I do not support the Harris County Bond for 2.5 billion dollars. While Harris County may need an additional Level I Trauma Center, it should not be at LBJ. I am also highly skeptical of the county's ability to execute a large infrastructure project without a significant amount of fraud and abuse.

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.

**Fred Flickinger**  
**Candidate for Houston City Council District E**

**Fred Flickinger is a steadfast and unwavering conservative, a successful business leader, a longtime political activist, and advocates for conservative candidates and causes. Fred is an owner of Flickinger Machine, a family business which has been in operation since 1979. Prior to managing the family business, he was an executive for a logistics corporation for 27 years. Within that corporation, he was Director of Operations with responsibilities for 15 sites throughout 10 states, with over 300 direct and indirect reports, and a budget in excess of \$30 million per year. Fred's 35+ years extensive business expertise sets him apart and provides him with a different perspective when making key decisions to improve the lives of the people in District E.**



**Fred has been a Houstonian for 50+ years. He grew up in Sagemont, then moved to Clear Lake and now resides in Kingwood. Being a part of these communities has allowed him to not only develop relationships, but also form a solid understanding of the needs and priorities throughout all of District E to effectively represent its constituents.**

**Fred has been endorsed by The Republican Party of Texas, The Harris County Republican Party, all Harris County District E Republican Senate District Chairs, State Republican Executive Committee Members from Districts 4, 6 & 11, State Representative Briscoe Cain, State Representative Dennis Paul, Constable Phil Sandlin, Former City of Houston Councilwoman Brenda Stardig, over 20 District E Precinct Chairs, and numerous community leaders.**

**Fred is a strong believer of being engaged in the community. He served as President of the Lake Houston Pachyderm Club, where he spearheaded their voter education efforts and has served on the Leadership Board of the Kingwood TEA Party for the last decade. Currently, Fred serves on the Senate District 4 Advisory Board, is a member of the Harris County Republican Party's Chairman Circle, an associate member of the Bay Area Republican Women and the Kingwood Area Republican Women, and has participated as a delegate in both the District and State Conventions for the last six election cycles. He is also a long-time volunteer and supporter of the Prison Entrepreneurship Program, which connects business leaders with incarcerated individuals to instill business acumen and provide mentorship. Fred and his wife Leslie have two daughters and three grandchildren. They are both active parishioners of St. Martha Catholic Church.**

# **FRED FLICKINGER for HOUSTON CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT E ENDORSEMENTS**

## **ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Briscoe Cain, State Representative District 128  
Dennis Paul, State Representative District 129  
Phil Sandlin, Constable Precinct 8  
Scott Bowen, Clear Creek ISD Board of Trustee  
Mike Grabowski, Humble ISD Board of Trustee  
Robert Scarfo, President, Humble ISD Board of Trustees

## **ORGANIZATIONS**

RPT - Republican Party of Texas  
HCRP - Harris County Republican Party  
KWTP - Kingwood Tea Party

## **REPUBLICAN PARTY OFFICIALS**

Ted LeBlanc, Republican Senate District 4 Chair  
Rex Teter, Republican Senate District 6 Chair  
Robert Jeter, Republican Senate District 11 Chair  
Dale Inman, State Republican Executive Committee, District 4  
Gwendolyn Winthrow, State Republican Executive Committee, District 4  
Scott Bowen, State Republican Executive Committee, District 6  
Dawn McDonald, State Republican Executive Committee, District 6  
Gaylyn Devine, State Republican Executive Committee, District 11

## **PRECINCT CHAIRS**

Javier Adame - Scott Bowen - Janie Branham - Shannon Brinkley - Louise Lange-Caldwell - Tracy Chilla  
Luke Cowan - Audra Deaver - Stuart Fagin - Robert Fuller - Gabriel Gonzales II - Elizabeth Lauzon  
Ted LeBlanc - George May - Mike Machemehl - Daryl Palmer - Robert Price - Deanna Robertson  
Rich Stoitsits - Rex Teter - Marvin Willifred

## **COMMUNITY LEADERS**

Charles Blain, Founder & Executive Director, Urban Reform & Urban Reform Institute  
Bill Frazer, Former Candidate, Houston City Council  
Kyle Scott, Former Candidate, Harris County Treasurer  
Brenda Stardig, Former City of Houston City Councilwoman