



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
Council Member Mary Nan Huffman	Re-election to Houston City Council District G

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 am running for re-election because I want to make sure that public safety remains local government's number one priority. There needs to be a renewed focus on improving storm water drainage, traffic safety, and water infrastructure. I will also continue to demand transparency and accountability from other government officials to ensure Houston comes first, not special interests.

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: Before joining Houston City Council, I was a prosecutor in the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office for 10 years, rising quickly to become the Chief Felony Prosecutor in the Child Exploitation Division and over the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Division. My work as a prosecutor of child exploitation cases has earned me a national reputation and I am sought after as a special prosecutor for difficult child exploitation prosecutions. My experience as a trial lawyer has enhanced my advocacy skills and allows me to be an effective advocate for the people of District G.

Currently, I am an attorney for the Houston Police Officers' Union representing HPD Officers in a variety of matters associated with their duties as an officer. I respond to scenes to assist officers involved in shootings and in-custody deaths. I know how critical it is for the city's first responders to have the proper equipment they need to do such an important job.

My home flooded in Hurricane Harvey. I have personally received excessive water bills. I have lived in the district for 15 years, and I have seen our city at its worst and at its best. I'm very familiar with the unique issues and challenges that are faced by the residents of District G – and I have, and will continue to, work tirelessly on their behalf.

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 typical method most residents use to report issues to the city is through the 3-1-1 system. My biggest problem with the 3-1-1 application is that it does not always provide residents accurate information in a timely manner. I have heard of many instances where a case submitted to 3-1-1 is erroneously closed or a resident receives incorrect information regarding their case's status. Improving this system is an ongoing effort, but I always encourage residents to share their cases with me directly so that my office can help escalate the problem to management within the relevant city department.

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		
__3__ Solid Waste Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
__8__ Parks and Recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
__1__ Houston Police Department	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
__1__ Houston Fire Department	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
__7__ Houston Health Department	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
__4__ Municipal Courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
__5__ Libraries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
__2__ Public Works	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
__6__ Technology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
__9__ Conventions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Answer: Public safety is my primary focus as a member of city council. I find it absurd that in a city the size of Houston, our police and fire departments are struggling to attain adequate levels of personnel and equipment. I view both departments as critical to providing the most fundamental duty of local government. With the other departments where I have noted that funding is adequate or excessive, I believe there are opportunities to improve operations without supplemental funding through redirecting funds within the department to improve the core services of each department.

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

Answer: Yes, the police force absolutely can be increased. Our city needs a mayor and city council who are willing to tackle the attrition crisis facing HPD. The fact is that experienced officers are retiring at a faster rate than new cadets can be hired and trained. We need to do everything possible to ensure that the pay and benefits that HPD offers are competitive, but, most of all, we need to ensure that law enforcement remains a respected and distinguished profession that young people want to pursue as a career.

No, Houston should never be a "sanctuary city."

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

Answer: Absolutely!

7. Do you support the proposed Hospital Bond issue for \$2.5 billion dollars?
Answer: This is a Harris County issue, and I understand the concern regarding our region's need for additional emergency room capacity. However, I am generally skeptical of adding new bond debt. I was the only vote in opposition to the city's nearly \$500 million bond proposal last year and always encourage voters to thoroughly research every bond proposal that appears on a ballot. It's not free money, after all!

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.