



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
Rick Gonzales	City Council District I

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

1.

1.	Why are you running for City Council? If elected, what will be your priorities?
	<p>Answer: I am running because I am concerned about the direction District I has been going. I am concerned about the crime in our city, flooding, infrastructure and wasteful spending. It has been reported that at the conclusion of the bike lanes plan, the cost will be approximately \$500 million. This is outrageous. I have not talked to one resident of District I who thinks the bike lanes are a good idea. Elderly citizens have damaged their vehicles due to confusion of the bike lanes. The bike lanes are seldom utilized. Children never utilize the bike lanes due to being too dangerous. Removing two vehicular lanes to construct two bike lanes (one each direction) is not a very intelligent plan.</p> <p>Crime in this city is high. Citizens are afraid to go shopping, gas up their vehicles and go to the bank without having to look over their back. This is not the way to live. Patrol vehicles are rarely seen in neighborhoods due to the shortage of officers, however if the officers assigned to non-police functions are reassigned to patrol, may alleviate officer shortage.</p> <p>The city collects drainage fees from property owners, however they have ignored many areas in District I where flooding often occurs.</p> <p>The streets are in need of repair. The dollars spent on the bike lanes should be utilized to fix and repair the street. Our city infrastructure has been ignored or set aside for other city projects. This is unacceptable.</p> <p>The city must stop wasteful spending and be transparent with the tax paying citizens.</p>

2.

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?
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First of all, I care about the citizens of this city regardless of the district they reside in. I am a retired Houston Police Officer of 30 years. My entire career has been addressing issues and concerns of residents mainly in District I. I am very familiar with the citizens and small business owners in District I. During my career with the Houston Police Department I was assigned to many assignments such as patrol, truancy unit, inhalant abuse unit, gang unit, community service unit, differential response team, neighborhood protection and homeland security at both Houston Airports. I have a vast amount of experience addressing many critical and dangerous situations. I have worked during Hurricanes and flooding on several occasions. I have abated blight and graffiti, cleaned under bridges of debris and trash, enforced illegal dumping, arrested many felons for murder, robbery, burglary, auto theft, domestic violence, narcotics, ect. My vast amount of experience cannot be matched by my opponent. I will not ignore the citizens of the district I, like the present administration has. I will be the voice of the citizens and fight for concerns. Working with the citizens is not new to me.

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: I believe much improvement is needed. Every citizen complaint must be investigated and answered. The citizen must be notified of the outcome of their complaint. Citizens have told me that they seldom get the outcome of their complaint.

The system can be improved by hiring caring and friendly employees. There is no substitute for good service.

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

Answer: These department budgets are in the multi-millions of dollars. In order for me to give an educated answer, I would have to conduct much more research on each department.

5. Crime problem in Houston--can the police force be increased? Immigration impact--should Houston be a sanctuary city?
Answer: Houston absolutely must not be a sanctuary city. The city is having a difficult problem addressing the homeless situation we have now. Inviting more illegal immigrants will multiply the problem, especially with the lack of police officers we have. The illegal immigrants will take resources away from our legal residents and flood our schools and hospitals. I believe that our citizens should come first.
 If we allow illegal immigrants to remain here, we will see a spike in crime.
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: More research is warranted

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.