



## 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
Orlando Sanchez	Controller

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 Controller? If elected, what will be your priorities?  
**Answer:** I am running for Controller because the City's financial status and system of internal controls are in serious disarray. Overspending and financial mismanagement has gone unchecked for over a decade under the control of the current Administration and few meaningful audits have been completed.  
  
My top priorities include re-energizing the internal audit function, closely monitor city projects and contracts for compliance and potential conflicts of interest and I will closely monitor and issue formal reports and updates monthly on the City's budget.  
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2. What experience or skills have prepared you to serve as a city controller member? What differentiates you from the other candidates?

**Answer:** No other candidate has the background and experience as I have to serve as City Controller.

I've been actively engaged in community service since my high school days at HISD's Bellaire High School. It's only natural that I want to continue my service to our community and my City based on my experience and proven conservative record.

I immigrated to the US as a child with my family, fleeing an oppressive Communist regime in Cuba. I learned from my own experiences and from my parents how easily and quickly "liberal" politics can turn into a harsh, destructive force. I was determined to make a difference and have always strived to serve my country and my community.

After graduating from the University of Houston I served in the United States Air Force and the Texas Air National Guard. I've served 6 years on Houston's City Council and was assigned to the Council's Budget Committee. I was elected as Treasurer for Harris County and served for 12 years where I won numerous awards and recognition for providing transparency to the voters of Harris County. I served as vice-chair of the Legislative Affairs Committee for the County Treasurers Association of Texas, and during my time as County Treasurer, I received my certification as a County Investment Officer.

My community service continues in my private life, I am a life member of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and the 100 Club of Houston. I currently chair the University of Houston Foundation Board of Trustees and have served as its Investment Committee Chairman. I am a member of the Board of Directors of Capital Bank and serve on the bank's Audit Committee and on the Assets & Liabilities Committee. I am a member of the Board of Directors of HCA Hospital Northwest and am a Fellow of the British-American Project and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

3. What are the major issues currently facing the city controller's office? How do you handle issues surrounding increasing costs in city government versus revenue growth for the city?

**Answer:** The City does not have a revenue problem. With funds being wasted in several major programs such as Metro and the Drainage Fee fund, there are enough resources to balance our budget.

The internal audit function has been seldom used since first implemented by Anise Parker during her tenure as Controller. I will re-energize that function to identify and expose wasteful and abusive spending. As Controller I will use my authority to conduct comprehensive internal audits of all major departments and related entities including Metro, all TIRZs, special revenue funds, our airport system and our Water and Wastewater system. Similarly, all major City and related entity contracts and agreements will be reviewed for compliance with the law and with City policies, including conflicts of interest. Ongoing agreements such as providing financial incentives based on performance will be reviewed annually for compliance.

I will also closely monitor the annual budget and long-term outlook for the City each year, focusing on revenue projections, long-term debt status, spending requirements and certain risk factors. The City's budget and ongoing financial commitments must be kept within boundaries to enable it to meet future obligations without undue hardship or loss of essential services. It will be my job to keep the City within those boundaries.

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>  4  </u> Solid Waste Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>  4  </u> Parks and Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>  1  </u> Houston Police Department	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>  1  </u> Houston Fire Department	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>  4  </u> Houston Health Department	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>  4  </u> Municipal Courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>  4  </u> Libraries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>  1  </u> Public Works	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>  4  </u> Technology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>  4  </u> Conventions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Answer:** The Police, Fire and Public Works Departments are all underfunded. We need at least 500 more uniformed police officers, our Firefighter compensation program has to be sorted out and everybody who lives in Houston knows our streets are a mess. The other departments will need more careful study and if they need additional funding the Mayor and City Council will have to determine the priorities.

5. What steps will you take to maintain or increase the credit ratings for the city? What about various pension liabilities that the city must deal with?

**Answer:**

The Controller can help the City maintain or improve its credit ratings by emphasizing the need to control expenditures to counter any perceived revenue weaknesses and promote a higher and stabilized level of reserves. Managing necessary funding additional Police and solving the Firefighter's pay dispute can be made through reallocation of \$200 million in excess sales tax revenues received by Metro over the past two years. Much needed increased spending on our infrastructure can be funded by through better use of our designated property taxes for debt payments and the drainage fee.

The City's pension liabilities have been falling in recent years primarily due to the performance of the stock market. However, annual pension expenses for Police and Firefighters continue to be excessive at 36% of base pay, and are unsustainable, particularly in the face of a potential recession. I will encourage our new Mayor and City Council to adopt a defined contribution plan for new hires for all departments.

6. Do you support the proposed Hospital Bond issue for \$2.5 billion dollars? What will be the impact of the city's credit ratings?

**Answer:**

I favor the passage of this bond, which includes the addition of a Level 1 trauma center outside the Texas Medical Center.

As a board member of the local HCA Hospital System, an operator of three Level 2 Trauma Centers in the area, I am the only candidate with experience in this issue. The Houston region currently has only three Level 1 trauma centers, all located in the Texas Medical Center. Texas Children's, Memorial Hermann and Harris Health System's Ben Taub Hospital.

This means that someone living in Kingwood, or far west Houston or Northwest Houston has to be life-flighted to the TMC in case of a serious incident. It's simply too far for standard transportation and this causes unnecessary loss of lives. The Dallas region, on the other hand, has 8 level one trauma centers.

It's time for our area to add a much-needed medical facility to serve those who do not live in the center of Houston.

The impact on the City's credit ratings will be positive because having an adequate level of hospital services in the area is included in the evaluation criteria used by the rating agencies. It will also bring additional higher paying jobs to the area that are not energy related.

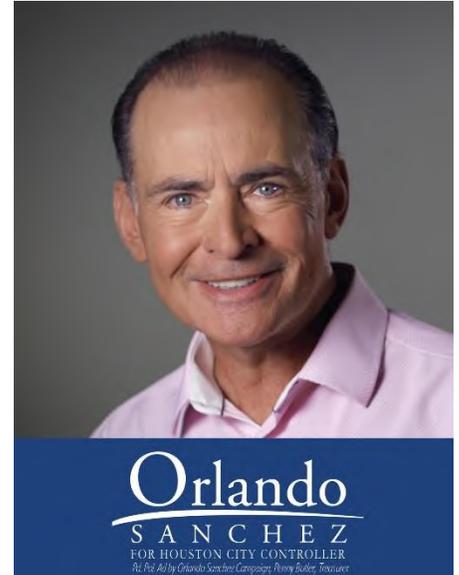
BY RETURNING THIS QUESTIONNAIRE, THE CANDIDATE ASSUMES FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL ANSWERS TO THIS QUESTIONNAIRE. THE ANSWERS ON THE FOREGOING REFLECT THE CANDIDATE'S BEST EFFORTS TO ANSWER THIS QUESTIONNAIRE HONESTLY AND DIRECTLY.

Once this questionnaire has been completed, please email it to: [alex@cchc-pac.org](mailto:alex@cchc-pac.org).

## Orlando Sanchez

### Candidate for City of Houston Controller

Orlando Sanchez came to Houston as a child, fleeing Communist oppression in Cuba with his family. He's a graduate of Bellaire High School and the University of Houston, and a proud veteran of the United States Air Force and the Texas Air National Guard. Orlando served 6 years on Houston's City Council and was assigned to the Council's Budget Committee. Elected as Treasurer for Harris County for 12 years, he won numerous awards and recognition for providing transparency to the voters of Harris County. He served as vice-chair of the Legislative Affairs Committee for the County Treasurers Association of Texas. During his time as County Treasurer, he received his certification as a County Investment Officer.

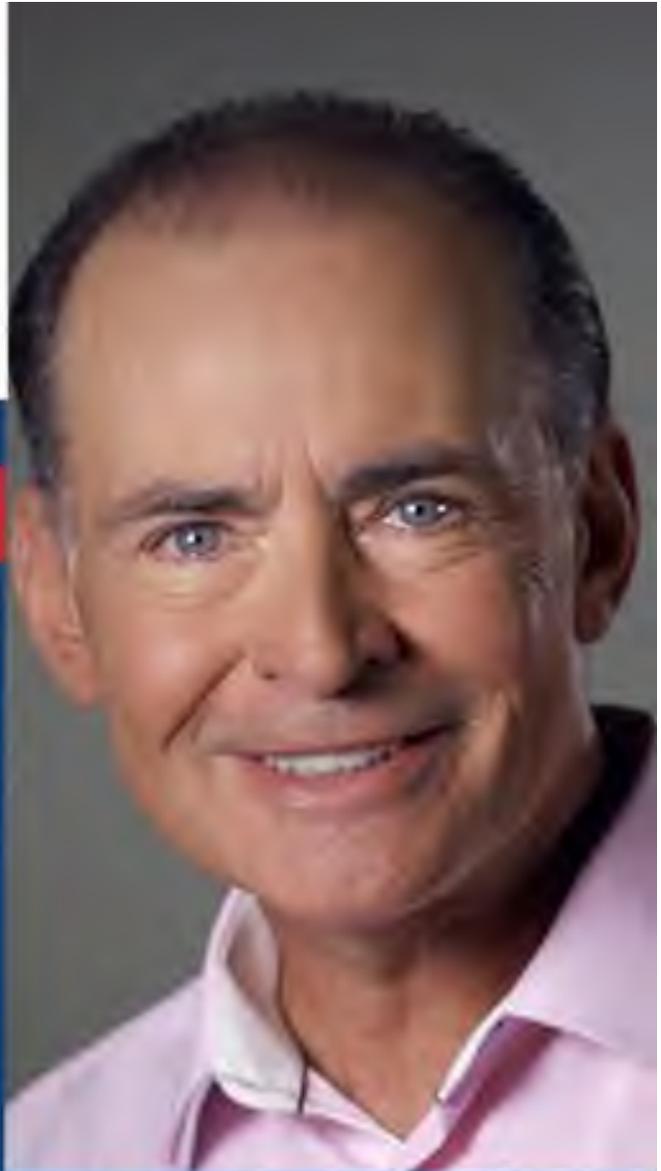


Orlando is a life member of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo and the 100 Club of Houston. He is chairman of the University of Houston Foundation Board of Trustees and served as its Investment Committee Chairman. He is a member of the Board of Directors of Capital Bank and serves on the bank's Audit Committee and on the Assets & Liabilities Committee. Orlando serves his community as a member of the Board of Directors of HCA Hospital Northwest. He is a fellow of the British-American Project and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

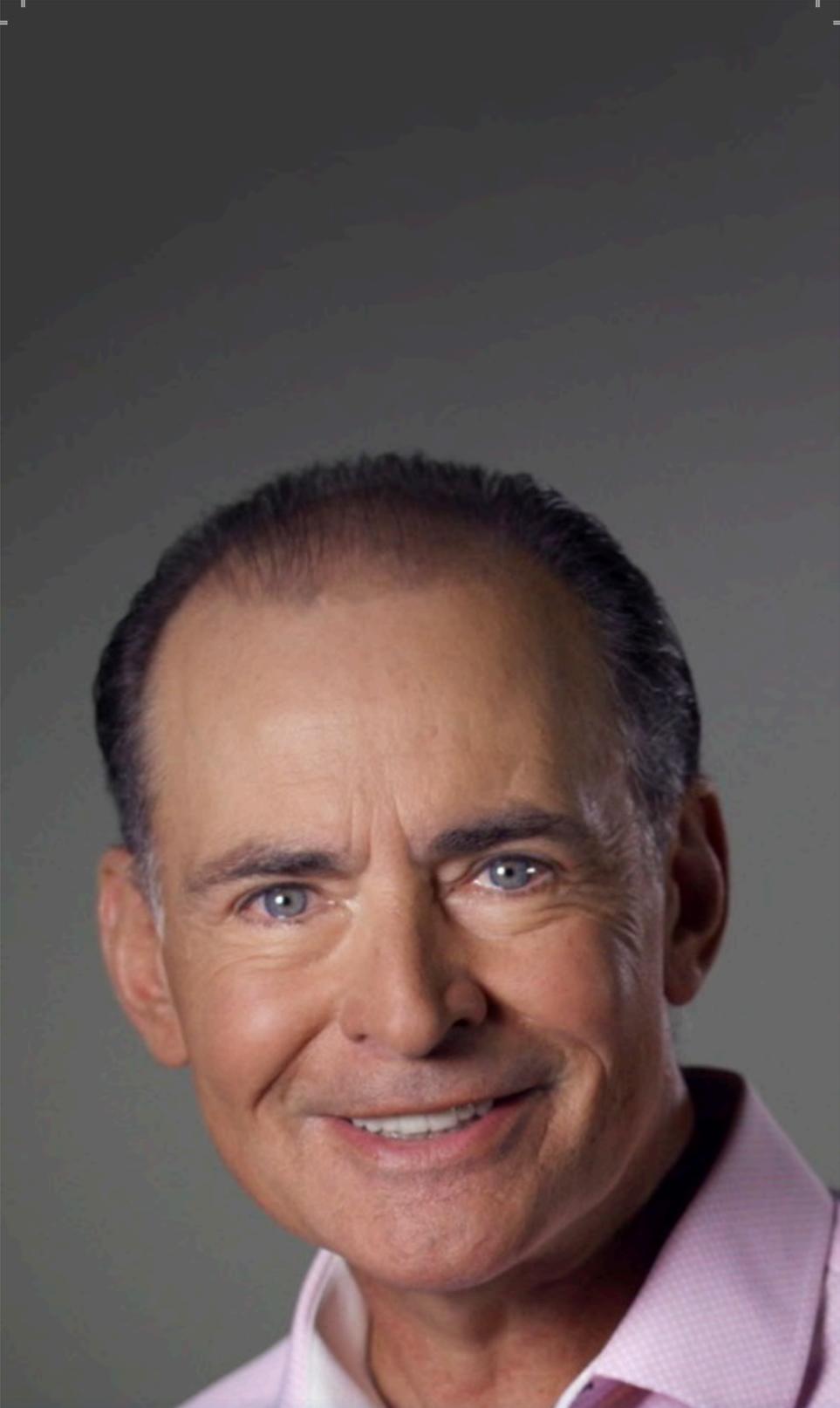


**Endorses**

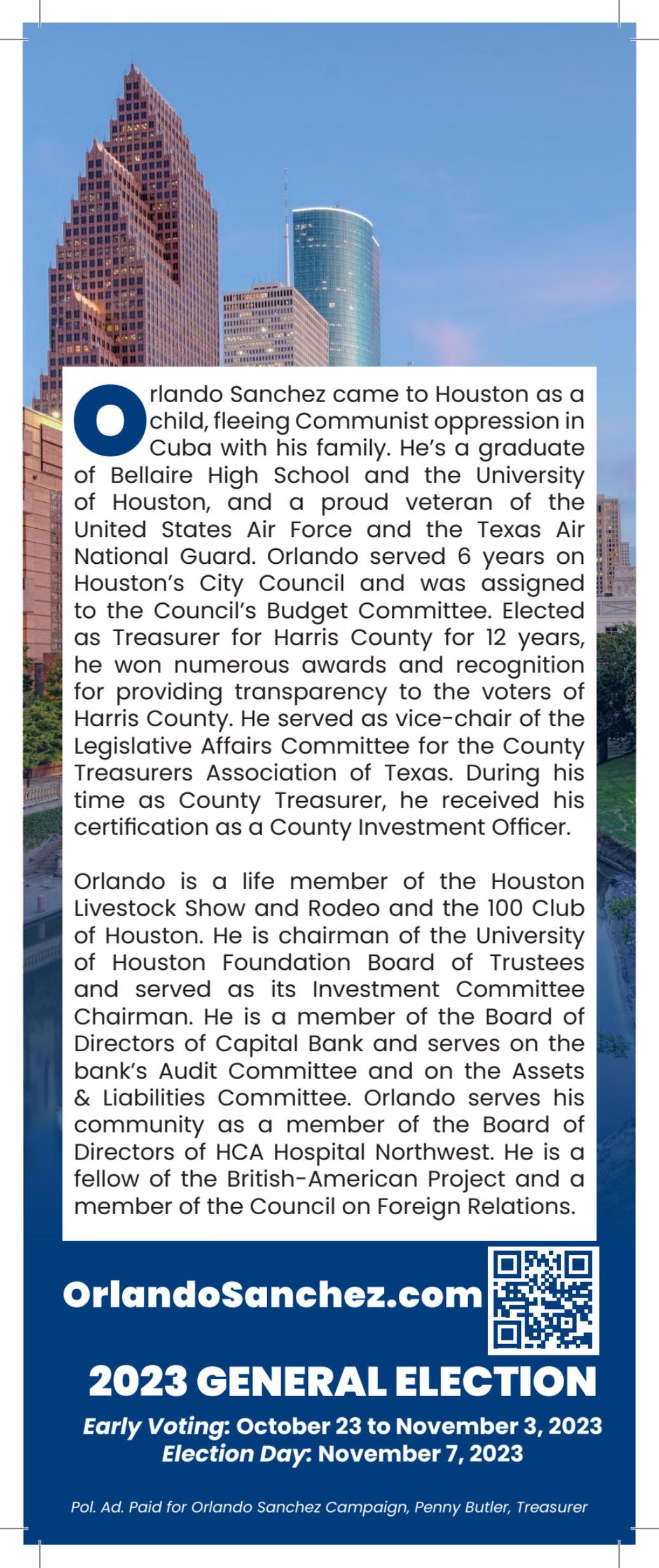
**Orlando**  
SANCHEZ  
FOR CONTROLLER



*Pol. Act. by Orlando Sanchez Campaign, Penny Butler, Treasurer*

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- A professional headshot of Orlando Sanchez, a middle-aged man with short dark hair and blue eyes, smiling slightly. He is wearing a light pink polo shirt over a white collared shirt. The background is a neutral, light grey.
- ▶ **Improve Police Response By Increasing Police Officers**
  - ▶ **Transparency & Accountability**
  - ▶ **Increase Infrastructure & Street Investments**
  - ▶ **Create Home Ownership Opportunities**
- 

**Orlando**  
**SANCHEZ**  
FOR HOUSTON CITY CONTROLLER



**O**rlando Sanchez came to Houston as a child, fleeing Communist oppression in Cuba with his family. He's a graduate of Bellaire High School and the University of Houston, and a proud veteran of the United States Air Force and the Texas Air National Guard. Orlando served 6 years on Houston's City Council and was assigned to the Council's Budget Committee. Elected as Treasurer for Harris County for 12 years, he won numerous awards and recognition for providing transparency to the voters of Harris County. He served as vice-chair of the Legislative Affairs Committee for the County Treasurers Association of Texas. During his time as County Treasurer, he received his certification as a County Investment Officer.

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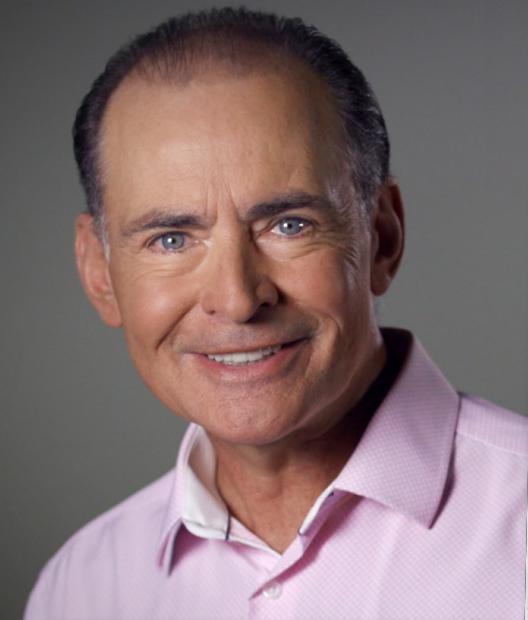
**[OrlandoSanchez.com](http://OrlandoSanchez.com)**



**2023 GENERAL ELECTION**

**Early Voting: October 23 to November 3, 2023**  
**Election Day: November 7, 2023**

*Pol. Ad. Paid for Orlando Sanchez Campaign, Penny Butler, Treasurer*



Orlando

SANCHEZ

FOR HOUSTON CITY CONTROLLER

Many of you know me through my decades of involvement here in Houston, Harris County, and across the State of Texas. I chair the UH Foundation Board of Trustees, serve on the Board of Directors of Capital Bank, and on the Board of HCA Hospital Northwest, and I am a life member of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

During my six years serving Houston At-Large on City Council, I always fought for citizens' needs. I twice ran for Mayor of Houston to try to right the sinking ship that Houston has been lately. I served Harris County for twelve years as YOUR County Treasurer.

Now, I'm asking for your ENDORSEMENT and VOTE to be your next Controller for the City of Houston. I have a proven commitment to wise fiscal management, growing our city, and fighting for OUR needs. I need your help NOW more than ever to make our city a better place. Sign this card (on the back) and drop it in the mail today to show me you have my back!

Thank you,



## “I Endorse Orlando for Houston Controller!!”

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number

### I'll Help the Campaign

- Block Walk
- Make Phone Calls
- Send Text Messages
- Host an Event

[www.OrlandoSanchez.com](http://www.OrlandoSanchez.com)



Political Ad Paid for by Orlando Sanchez  
Campaign, Penny Butler, Treasurer

Please Place  
First Class  
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**Orlando Sanchez Campaign**  
**PO Box 130853**  
**Houston, TX 77219-0853**