



## 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
Gilbert Garcia	Houston Mayor

*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 love Houston! I am a Yale University graduate and the managing partner of Garcia Hamilton & Associates and former chairman of the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County (METRO). Under my leadership, GH&A has increased the amount of fixed-income assets it manages from \$200 million to almost \$22 billion. At METRO, we balanced the budget, increased transparency, experienced labor peace, expanded light rail, re-did the entire bus network, revamped the procurement process, all earning us Transit Agency of the Year in 2015. I have served as a lead voice to the SEC to develop policies to increase transparency and address the wealth inequality that exists in America. This includes working with SEC Commissioners and testifying before various committees including the US Senate. If elected, I'll apply that value and experience in my role as Mayor. I think my experience building teams and running a billion-dollar business is an important skill I can bring to the City of Houston. I have released a pledge to Houston which outlines the actions that I would take during my first 100 days as Mayor. I have attached my pledge.
  
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:** My background as a financial expert and experience balancing the budget and leading METRO make me qualified to be Mayor. Financial expertise is crucial for managing Houston's budget, handling the City's pensions properly and ensuring financial stability. I am not a career politician. Additionally, being an outsider with no financial interests from the city. I can bring a fresh perspective and reduce conflicts of interest. I can make the tough calls to make the city better and ensure our government is transparent and held accountable to maintain the public trust.

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 current system is not effective for residents to report issues or file complaints. In my administration transparency will be a key component. The 311 system is outdated and needs a complete overhaul. The system is not working and must be fixed. It is impossible to speak to anyone in the city and this must change!

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:** As you can see in my pledge, I would audit the Health Department and Housing Department because they have both been raided by authorities. There is no way to say if a department is over or under funded based on this administration's budget and numbers. We need to resolve the Firefighter issue and implement the will of the voters as well as focus on crime to make people feel safe.

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

**Answer:** Houstonians don't feel safe. I support increasing community policing to improve police response times and increase the police visibility to deter crime. I would also add more civilian employees to free up police officers so they can focus on more police work. Finally, I will increase lighting in high crime-ridden areas.

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

**Answer:** Yes.

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

**Answer:** Yes.

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.



## **PLEDGE to HOUSTON**

**We All Love Houston. Houston should be in the same breath of the great cities in the World. To get there, we must get on the right track, together. As Mayor, I pledge to complete or initiate the following reforms within the first 100 days.**

**Join me to MAKE HOUSTON HAPPEN!**

### **1.CRIME**

**Expand community policing to improve response time.  
Increase civilian employees to free up officers for neighborhood engagement.  
Improve Law enforcement coordination among jurisdictions.**

### **2.TRANSPARENCY**

**Place the city's past 5 years check registry online.  
Conduct an audit of the City's Housing Department to address concerns of corruption.  
Conduct an audit of the City's Health Department to address issues surrounding the FBI raid.**

### **3.INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Implement improvements to the city's water system.  
Fix potholes effectively on the first attempt.  
Spend FLOODING money on FLOODING.**

### **4.FINANCES**

**Monitor and verify that the rain tax funds are being used for their intended purpose.  
Institute financial best practices, write off worthless assets and avoid structural deficits.**

### **5.QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL HOUSTONIANS**

**Address affordable housing challenges in Houston.  
Collaborate with local groups regarding stray animals.  
Evaluate recent car lane eliminations to prevent future traffic nightmares.  
Increase fines NOW for illegal dumping.  
Audit the recycling program to make sure the trash gets where it is supposed to go.**

### **6.REPAIR GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**

**Implement the will of the voters by entering into arbitration with the Houston Firefighters.  
Improve relations between Austin and Houston.  
Engage with TEA to understand the pathway for HISD's success.**

### **7.MAKE CITY HALL WORK FOR EVERYONE**

**Place reasonable Council Member Requests on the Council Agenda.  
Streamline the permitting process.  
Ensure a FAIR procurement process so insider influence is eliminated.  
Consolidate city departments to eliminate redundancies and improve efficiencies.  
Make board appointments easier and eliminate conflicts.**