



Questions for Candidates for Mayor 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
Lee Kaplan	Mayor of Houston

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 Mayor? If elected, what will be your priorities?
Answer:
My late father was a small businessman; my mother worked part-time at Neiman-Marcus. My dad's constant admonition still resonates with me every day: "If it's worth doing, it's worth doing right." And my mother's intelligence, warmth, and compassion taught me the importance of recognizing the contributions of others. I take what I learned from my parents to heart as I run for Mayor of Houston. I will tackle the thorny issues that frustrate Houstonians every day: crime, infrastructure and traffic, garbage pickup, and the maddening difficulty of dealing with the City bureaucracy. I'll tackle these problems head-on and make progress to help our City move forward. I don't promise to "solve" these problems overnight or "fix" them forever. But I won't get distracted by petty arguments or rhetorical disputes as we focus on what needs to get done. I will strive to be a Mayor who does things right, a Mayor you can be proud of, and a Mayor who focuses on the essential services that impact all of us every single day.

2. What experience or skills have prepared you to serve as Mayor? What differentiates you from the other candidates and/or council members?

Answer:

I am a small business owner. We have grown from three attorneys to a firm that employs 50 people. I know what it takes to run a business that has to meet a payroll every pay period. And I know how important it is to take the views of everyone at the firm to heart to make sure we are making the right decisions for everyone. We are known for competence, accountability, and integrity. I believe this approach and these qualities apply equally to the Mayor's office.

I have been an active participant in civic life. From my leadership positions with the Texas Aerospace Commission and Bar associations to my volunteer position as adult leader (Assistant Scoutmaster) with Troop 212 sponsored by St. James Episcopal Church at 3129 Southmore and volunteer for Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Meals on Wheels, I have given back to our community. And not to run for political office. Because it was the right thing to do.

I am not running for Mayor to advance a political career. I am not a political insider and am not beholden to anyone. I just want to be the best mayor for the people of Houston because I love our city and want it to be the best it can be.

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:

Dealing with the city's bureaucracy is maddening and fixing it will be one of my top priorities as Mayor. The first thing we need to do is appoint people to important positions based on merit, not as political favors.

The second part is to hold these employees accountable for providing the residents of Houston with quality customer 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
___ Parks and Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
___ Houston Police Department	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
___ Houston Fire Department	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
___ Houston Health Department	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
___ Municipal Courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
___ Libraries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
___ Public Works	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
___ Technology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
___ Conventions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Answer:

I believe we need to get back to basics. This means funding police protection, improving infrastructure, and making sure the trash is picked up in every neighborhood. These are the core functions of city government that must be fulfilled.

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

Answer:

I believe we need to have more police on the beat and that our police need to be more visible. This will allow police to work with community leaders to prevent these crimes. In many cases, these crimes won't occur just because people will see more police on the streets. We need more funding for police, but we also need smarter policing.

We should implement more of the suggestions in the PFM study purchased by the City in 2017, such as civilianizing more functions in the police force or combining duplicative HR functions. This would free up police to be on the beat to prevent crime.

6.	Do you support amending the City Charter to allow council members to add items to the meeting agendas?
	Answer: Yes. I support efforts to make the deliberations of the council more democratic and transparent.

7.	Do you support the proposed Hospital Bond issue for \$2.5 billion dollars?
	Answer: Yes. Our residents need to be able to have a place to receive medical care. That investment saves money by decreasing time lost to illness, disease and home health care while increasing productivity.

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.