

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 (<u>www.cchc-pac.org</u>).

| Candidate Name | Position that Candidate is Running For |
|----------------|--|
| MJ KHAN | MAYOR OF HOUSTON |

Candidates please give your answer to each of the following questions and <u>include your</u> <u>rationale</u> 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 want to run the city with private sector management philosophy, responsible fiscal policy and highest ethical standards. City of Houston is headed in the wrong direction, and it can be the 'Detroit" of the south. The problems we face today like high Crime rate, Crumbling infrastructure, Flooding, Budget deficits, Waste of Tax dollars, Cronvism, Nepotism, Toxic relationship with State Government, Looming Water Crisis, People and Businesses not choosing Houston, Crises of Pension and retirees' health benefits. Fire Fighters' Contract etc., are symptoms of mismanagement, bloated and inefficient bureaucracy, undue influence of pay-toplay contractors and lobbyists and special interest groups. I want to totally change how our city is managed. I am the only candidate in this race as a first-generation immigrant. I understand the needs and perspective of our diverse community. I moved to Houston in 1980 and have been tremendously successful in my personal life, my family life, my business and in my public life. I cannot thank America and the Houston community enough for providing me opportunities. My management experience, financial expertise, knowledge of city government, high ethical standards and proven leadership will resonate with voters that I am the best and most gualified candidate based ONLY on objective criteria. My campaign is grassroot. I WANT HOUSTON TO BE A SHINING EXAMPLE FOR REST OF THE COUNTRY.

I will run the city with highest ethical standards. I will empower the council committee and ethics commission to recommend revision to ethics ordinance to eliminate any conflict of interest, cronyism, nepotism or any special interest and pay-to-play influence. I will highly encourage and reward "whistle-blowers".

City bureaucracy must be lean and efficient. I will practice "meritocracy" in appointments, hiring and contracts. I will right-size city departments and consolidate functions, eliminate duplications. I will require all city departments to produce "Zero-Based" budget and have them conduct management audits (Process, Performance and Personnel). I will have contracts go through compliance audits. I will scrutinize all procurements to eliminate duplications and waste.

Public Safety: I will add \$100 million to HPD budget and start adding 500 officers in my first 100 days. During my first term, I will budget to add 1500 officers to the police force. I will invest in technology and improve our crime lab. The funds will come from efficiency in the government, Metro and TIRZ(s).

Infra-Structure: Currently we have about \$220 million yearly budget (revenues less operating expenses) in our Dedicated Drainage and Street Repair Fund, it should be more if city and metro put their required share. I will use these \$220 million as yearly payments towards issue of a new bond (WITH VOTERS' APPROVAL) which should result in debt of over \$2.5 Billion to address the drainage and street repairs. There will not be any new burden on taxpayers with this plan. I will explore and get voters' approval to use water fund to repair and replace old water pipes and install smart meters to save waste of over 30 billion gallons of water every year.

I will use my business and international relations expertise to make Houston a business-friendly city, Help our current and attract new businesses. I will work with Governor to negotiate with various countries' sovereign wealth funds to invest in companies operating in Houston. 2. What experience or skills have prepared you to serve as a Mayor? What differentiates you from the other candidates and/or council members?

Answer: As a businessman I know how to manage people, balance budget, motivate workforce, successfully negotiate with clients and other businesses. I conduct my business in ethical manner with ZERO debt. I practice highest ethical standards.

As a Houston City Council member, I served the most diverse constituency of District F very effectively. District F got a new police station, a new Park, a new multi-service center, grant funding for two community clinics, for senior housing and affordable housing, reduced crime, improved infra-structure.

I served as president and CEO of Islamic Society of Greater Houston (ISGH) for four years and as a board member for another six years, ISGH is like a mini-Houston with very diverse constituency in terms of ethnicity, education, socioeconomic status with varying needs and opinions. Muslim community trusted me because of my ethics, honesty and leadership. A good example was that during hurricane Harvey I made the call to open mosques as shelters, within hours many mosques were ready to receive displaced people with community members bringing all kinds of supplies (diapers, food, medicine, beddings etc.). Hundreds of volunteers served treated people who took shelter as VIP guests. Soon Muslims from all over the country were sending supplies and donations and ISGH became a model which was replicated by other Muslim communities across the country. We raised \$1.5 Million for Harvey Relief fund via telethon. Dozens of Muslim doctors and medical personnels offered and helped in various shelters around the City.

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: 311 is a good system but is not effective in addressing constituents' issues or complaints. City departments are not transparent and responsive as if they just don't care. Residents getting exorbitant water bills for example and feel like they are dealing with used car salesman to resolve the issue. Permitting department is a mess with no clear and uniform policies. I will appoint leaders from private sectors to city departments and make city "Customer Friendly". I will practice meritocracy in hiring and promotions.

| reasoning in answer section box: | Over-Funded / Adequate / Under-Funded | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Solid Waste Management | | | |
| Parks and Recreation | \boxtimes | | |
| Houston Police Department | | | \boxtimes |
| Houston Fire Department | | | \boxtimes |
| Houston Health Department | | \boxtimes | |
| Municipal Courts | | \boxtimes | |
| Libraries | \boxtimes | | |
| Public Works | \boxtimes | | |
| Technology | | | \boxtimes |
| Conventions | \boxtimes | | |

 Crime problem in Houston--can the police force be increased? Immigration impact--should Houston be a sanctuary city?
 Answer: I will start adding 500 police officers immediately by increasing HPD

budget by \$100 million and in my first term I will add 1500 officers. Money will come by eliminating waste, duplication and inefficiencies of processes, doing away with special interests and pay-to-play cronyism. I will also get Metro and TIRZs transfer \$200 million of their excess funds to the city. I will never make Houston a sanctuary city.

- Do you support amending the City Charter to allow council members to add items to the meeting agendas?
 Answer: No. This will make council meeting totally inefficient and unnecessary long, this will also increase politics in city hall. My solution is to empower council committees to wet agenda items before they are placed on weekly agenda.
- 7. Do you support the proposed Hospital Bond issue for \$2.5 billion dollars? **Answer**: I don't have enough details about this.

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: <u>alex@cchc-pac.org</u>.

Please note: You <u>must</u> 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 <u>not</u> 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.