



Questions for Candidates for State Legislative Office from the Conservative Coalition of Harris County

Our questionnaire is for candidates to indicate their reasons and opinions concerning issues surrounding their races. This questionnaire will be posted onto the Conservative Coalition of Harris County website for public voter viewing.

Candidate Name	Position for which Candidate is Running
Rep. Mano DeAyala	Re-Election, House District 133

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

1. Please describe the qualifications and experience that make you the best candidate in your political race.

Answer: In April 2017, Governor Greg Abbott appointed me to a six-year term on the board of the Texas Board of Criminal Justice where I served as the Chair of the Business & Finance Committee and, also served as Trustee of the Windham School District. In July 2020, the United States Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President, appointed me to a three-year term as an arbitrator to adjudicate trade disputes under the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (“USMCA”).

I am a past member of the “C” Club of Houston having served on the executive committee from 2012 through 2021 and as President in 2017 and, also served as a Trustee of the Houston Region Business Coalition 2020-2021. I served on the Board of the Hispanic Republicans of Texas since 2012 and as Chairman from 2017 through 2022. I have served as an election integrity attorney for HCRP in 2020 including litigation counsel, pro bono.

Serving Spring Branch ISD is a passion for my wife, Melissa, and me. I have served on Spring Branch Independent School District’s Finance and Long-Range Planning committees and as a board member of Heritage Ed, a prospective K-8 charter school serving northwest Houston. With the Spring Branch-Memorial Sports Association (SBMSA), I was a longtime youth football coach and served as a board member from 2012 through 2022.

In my professional career, I am a senior partner of Buck Keenan LLP and, for more than a decade, I have been recognized as one of the top Texas Lawyers by Texas Super Lawyers and as one of the top lawyers in the US by Best Lawyers® in America.

I received a BBA (Finance) Degree from the University of Texas (McCombs School of Business) in 1988 and law degree from Southern Methodist University in 1992.

Melissa and I have been married 32 years.

2. Please explain what you believe are the most significant issues in this race, why you are running for this position and what differentiates you from the other candidate(s).

Answer: Always fighting for the property owner, the property taxpayer and protecting our southern border are key issues that are of utmost importance to HD133 voters. Regarding differences between me and my opponent, I have voted in every primary since 2010; I have been a delegate to State Convention; I have led statewide voter registration efforts and led statewide organizations to help turn South Texas more Republican and Texas a deeper shade of red. Another differentiator is that you may not always agree with me, but I am consistent, I am honest, I am accessible, and I am rooted in the conservative principles of the Texas miracle and the American dream that gave my parents, my brothers and me opportunity and freedom after fleeing communist Cuba.

3. What will be your top 3 priorities during your upcoming term?

Answer: School Choice while funding public schools, supporting Texas as a pro-life state through the Thriving Texas Families program, ensuring Texas protects its border because Biden will not.

4. What are your suggestions toward public education funding within Texas? What are the areas where wasteful spending can be reduced, areas of revenue enhancement, or ideas to increase efficiency in public education spending?

Answer: State revenue must find its way into the classroom and achieve better academic outcomes.

5. What are your positions in regard to school choice for Texas public schools? Do you support Governor Abbott's plan?

Answer: I support school choice in Texas. I balance the input of my local school boards (Spring Branch ISD is in my district, along with HISD) and my lifelong support for public schools with my belief in school choice which I have exhibited by serving on the board of a charter school in northwest Houston. I supported Gov. Abbott's school choice bill in the 4th Special Session. I will continue to vote for legislation that provides Texas parents the best education option for their child and that delivers on our promise for Texas kids to have good public schools.

6. What ideas do you have to tighten election integrity laws to better secure Texas elections?

Answer: I served on the Elections Committee with State Rep. Valoree Swanson and authored, and otherwise supported, meaningful election legislation. I worked closely with my friend the late Alan Vera to protect and secure our elections. As a member of the Elections Committee, I made it clear that Harris County is too big to fail. I co-sponsored Senator Bettencourt's SB 1750, which finally got rid of the Elections Administrator position here in Harris County. Good riddance. I participated in the passage of critical election integrity legislation like HB 1243, legislation that increases the penalty of illegal voting to a second-degree felony and SB 1933, legislation that provides procedures for state oversight of a county office administering elections or voter registration improperly. I worked closely with Alan to help clean up our Harris County elections and I authored legislation that will result in central count being more secure. This is just the beginning, and I will continue to fight for fair and transparent elections as State Representative.

7. What initiatives will you propose to help the voters in your district?

Answer: A major accomplishment for our local Houston community was the reform of Public Facility Corporations (PFCs) to eliminate abuses by the unelected Houston Housing Authority. The PFC's affordable housing program was intended to support workforce housing but had been misused by HHA and others. We passed HB 2071, legislation I joint-authored, that has put an end to these abuses and introduced strict accountability, transparency and oversight mechanisms to the PFC program. Most importantly, it puts the tax abatement decision in the hands of elected officials, not the unelected HHA. This comprehensive reform prevents Housing Authorities from recklessly removing tax dollars from our city, county, and schools. I also authored the legislation to reinforce the rights of private property owners to *opt-out* of the city of Houston's conservation district stranglehold allowing a property owner to continue to invest in what is often their largest asset, their home.

Serving the residents of HD 133 as their State Representative is a responsibility I take seriously, and I look forward to continuing to effectively serve our community for another term as State Representative.

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.

PLEASE SAVE YOUR COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE TO YOUR LOCAL MACHINE IN THE EVENT THAT THERE ARE ANY TECHNICAL PROBLEMS WHEN YOU ATTEMPT TO EMAIL IT BACK.

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-PAC deems a return from the proper email address as authentication of the correct respondent.

Endorsements:

I wanted share some of the individuals and organizations endorsing my re-election campaign:

Governor Greg Abbott, Texas Right to Life, Texas Home School Coalition, Texas Alliance for Life, Texas Coalition for Life, Young Conservatives of Texas, Houston Police Officers' Union PAC, National Rifle Association, Texas State Rifle Association, Department of Public Safety Officers Association, Texans for Medical Freedom, Greater Houston Builders Association, Houston Regional Business Coalition, Texas Latino Conservatives, TLR, Hispanic Republicans of Texas. I am endorsed by Family Empowerment Coalition PAC, precincts chairs and community leaders like Constable Ted Heap and many more because of my conservative credentials, credibility, capability, and commitment to my district and constituents.

I am also ranked in the Top 25% conservatives of House Republicans by Young Conservatives of Texas, Texas Eagle Forum and Mark Jones of Rice University. Working with Dr. Tom Oliverson on the floor of the House defeating Democrat amendments to his ban on gender modification was a highlight of my freshman session. I want to share his words with you regarding my work with him on this landmark legislation for which I proudly voted.

DR. TOM OLIVERSON, STATE REP. HARRIS COUNTY, DIST. 130

Mano was by my side, literally, when the Democrats were attempting to weaken and defeat my bill to end gender modification procedures for Texas children.



Mano was a valuable co-author and he helped defeat the onslaught of Democrat amendments which was invaluable and an important reason why we were able to pass a strong bill that protects Texas children from these irreversible and life altering surgical procedures.

Pol. Ad Paid for by the Mano DeAyala Campaign.