



Questions for Candidates for Texas Railroad Commissioner 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
James “Jim” Matlock	Railroad Commission of Texas

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: As a Marine, I gained leadership skills. My job in the Marine Corps was security/antiterrorism. I am not an attorney, nor am I a politician. I spent sixteen years in the financial industry. I have spent the past eighteen years working in the field of the oil and gas industry. I am a solutions based individual that prioritizes the interests of every Texan first.
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: There are some running for this position that will say we need to cut back on our production of oil and gas in order to reduce the injection of wastewater. There are some so called “Subject Matter Experts” that are taking advantage of a fabricated crisis. There are sensible, effective, and cost efficient solutions out there that would not slow our production.

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

Answer:

- 1. Addressing waste within the industry. We can recycle an average of 85% of the water and solids produced by the oil and gas industry. Texas produces an average of 14 million barrels of wastewater per day. It takes an average of 7 million gallons to frac a well. The recycled water could be utilized for the completion of future wells or irrigating our farm land to protect our food supply.**
- 2. Texas oil and gas fields and mineral rights are being sold to the governments of countries that do not have our best interests at heart. During World War II, Texas was hailed for providing a sea of oil that guaranteed the allies victory. We must put our national security first.**
- 3. Flare gas is a controversial topic. The EPA and the RRC talk about how they need to reduce the amount of natural gas being flared. I agree that we don't need to waste the resources; however, I don't agree with the so called "Experts" that say it is detrimental to the environment. Methane is produced at city landfills and sanitation stations. There's technology that could capture 100% of the methane and turn it into electricity, propane, diesel, and even hydrogen on location. It's time we begin utilizing new technology.**

The one phase that irritates me is, "We do things this way, because that's how it's always been done.

4. What changes can be made to the Railroad Commissioner office to improve productivity, reduce waste and increase efficiency?

Answer: From what I have been hearing, there's a lot of room for improvement within the Railroad Commission. One of the issues that has been brought to my attention is that we need to look at the locations and expenses of each field office. In addition, our inspectors should have a better working relationship within the communities we serve. When a community has questions about their natural gas pipeline delivery system, we should be there to support. We should be more concerned about safety within our communities.

5. What issues need to be addressed by the Railroad Commissioner with increased restrictions by the Federal Government (EPA, etc.) on the oil and gas industry in Texas?

Answer: I am running to take control of the Texas oil and gas industry. It's time we stop playing politics and actually make the decisions to fix the issues. The Federal EPA has now got a foothold in the door of Texas energy sector. If we can't fix our problems, they will take full control.

Methane is one of those things the EPA is at war with right now. Another is the injection wells. With a few simple rule changes, we could address that at a state level and fix the problem. The RRC's favorite phrase is, "We can't endorse your product or your business. The RRC should have a list of items that actually work and require such products. We need to fix the issues to keep the EPA from expanding their reach into the energy sector of Texas.

6. With the oil price downturn last year, what sort of ideas or policy changes do you think are necessary to keep producers active in drilling and producing oil and gas to help the Texas economy and maintain state oil & gas tax revenues?

Answer: Texans take pride in their oil and gas industry. With the stabilization of oil prices, the RRC needs to work with other state agencies to give the producers an extra stream of income. By allowing the producers to generate electricity on location is just one of those options. Allowing the operator to produce hydrogen, propane, and other forms of hydrocarbons on location, we will see a more stable market for all Texans with increased revenue for the producers.

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.