



Questions for Candidates for Texas Comptroller 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
MICHAEL BERLANGA	COMPTROLLER OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

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: I am the only CPA with the education, experience and license to be held to the highest standards of ethics while providing background in auditing, efficiency and property tax advocacy work demanded of this office. Specifically, I represent Legislators as their advocate and the City of San Antonio in teaching taxpayers their rights to lower their taxes.

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: The most significant issue in the race is the role the Comptroller performs in Property Value Studies and being the leading voice in the goal to eliminate school property taxes in no less than four years. At the same time, as the Comptroller I will do more than estimate revenue but also offer and lobby if necessary, the Legislature to reduce discretionary spending otherwise used in past sessions from surpluses created with state validated school property value/tax abuse. The need to conflate these issues and educate the taxpayers of Texas is essential to achieving lasting change to the broken, inefficient, and wealth discriminatory system currently enabled by the Legislature.

3.

What will be your top 3 priorities during your upcoming term?
Answer: 1-Eliminate School Property Taxes 2-End "near" Universal School Choice 3-Unite TEXANS VS TAXES with knowledge of the rights of every Texas Taxpayer to lower their burden and make housing more affordable

4. What changes can be made to the Texas Comptroller office to improve tax collections, reduce waste in agency appropriations, enhance state investments, and increase payment efficiencies to vendors and employees?
- Answer:** The Comptroller can work to conflate the use of the newly created Department of Government Efficiency to design protocols and metrics maximizing the technology of today with the obligations created in the past. Working with the State Auditor, the Comptroller as only a CPA can best do will raise the standards and transparency of an office that is rarely recognized for doing a thankless job while saving Texas taxpayers money while reducing wasteful budgets
5. Should our Texas state government create an efficiency team (DOGE) that will use computer technology such as AI to expose fraud and waste within government agencies?
- Answer:** The lesson learned from the federal government's use of DOGE is now only beginning to be acknowledged and imitated. To date, the office has not specifically been clear what and when it will fulfill a purpose that would begin to be significant if it held the Legislature to its constitutional DUTY to fund education efficiently per Article 7 of the State Constitution. This is where true leadership from a CPA and not recycling former members or family members of the Legislature who have failed to fulfill their DUTY demands serious leadership with vision and courage for achieving what has not been achieved thus far.

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.