



Questions for Candidates for Texas Lieutenant Governor 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
Dan Patrick	Lieutenant Governor

The Dan Patrick Campaign referred CCHC PAC to the Legislative tracker section of the campaign website for a summary of his accomplishments in the 2025 session. Many of these bills were part of the Texas Republican Party Legislative Priorities that were passed by the SREC and 2024 state convention delegates:

Dan Patrick Legislative Tracker (Patrick Campaign Website)

Priority Bills Passed by Senate:

SB01: Senate's Budget for Texas (Signed into Law)

The 2025–2026 Texas state budget, authorized by Senate Bill 1, is an approximately \$338 billion two-year spending plan. Bolstered by a significant state surplus, it focuses heavily on education, property tax relief, and infrastructure.

Key highlights of the budget include:

Public Education & Teacher Pay: Allocates \$8.5 billion in new funding for public schools. This includes roughly \$4.3 billion to \$4.9 billion specifically for teacher pay raises, aimed at providing \$4,000 for most teachers and up to \$10,000 for those in rural districts.

Property Tax Relief: Dedicates \$51 billion to maintain and expand property tax relief. This plan aims to increase the homestead exemption to \$140,000 for most homeowners and \$150,000 for seniors.

Infrastructure Investments:

Energy: \$5 billion for the Texas Energy Fund to support the development of gas-fueled power plants.

Water: \$2.5 billion for the Texas Water Fund to address new supply projects and aging infrastructure.

School Choice: Sets aside \$1 billion to fund a new K-12 public school voucher (education savings account) program.

Border Security: Provides over \$3.3 billion for border security operations, including funding for the Department of Public Safety and the Texas Military Department.

Health & Human Services: Allocates \$105.7 billion (roughly 31% of the budget), which includes \$750 million to cover Medicaid expenses and \$370 million for retired educator health insurance.

Mental Health: Includes \$235.5 million for mental health grants and \$54 million for Youth Mobile Crisis Outreach Teams.

SB02: Providing School Choice: (Law)

Voucher Amounts: \$10,474 per year for students attending accredited private schools (for the 2026-27 school year).

Up to \$30,000 per year for students with recognized disabilities, based on their Individualized Education Program (IEP).

\$2,000 per year for homeschooled students to cover materials, tutoring, or transportation.

Eligibility & Prioritization: All Texas students are universally eligible to apply, regardless of current enrollment status. If demand exceeds funding, 80% of spots are reserved via lottery for students who are low-income or have disabilities, while the remaining 20% are open to all.

SB03: Banning THC in Texas (Vetoed)

SB04: Increasing the Homestead Exemption to \$140,000 (Law)

SB05: Combatting Dementia and Alzheimer's Establishing DPRIT (Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas) – (Law)

Mission: To accelerate research into Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and other related disorders.

Funding: Created a state fund authorized to award up to \$300 million annually in grants for research and prevention.

Implementation: The establishment of the institute and its funding was contingent on voter approval of a constitutional amendment (SJR 3) in November 2025.

SB06: Increasing Texas' Electric Grid Reliability (Law)

Signed into law by Governor Abbott, this SB 6 focuses on protecting the Texas electric grid from the high demand of "large loads" like data centers and crypto-mining facilities.

Grid "Kill Switch": Requires new large loads (75 megawatts or more) interconnected after Dec. 31, 2025, to install equipment allowing ERCOT to remotely curtail their power during grid emergencies.

Cost Sharing: Mandates that these massive energy users pay a larger share of the infrastructure and interconnection costs previously borne by all ratepayers.

Backup Power Disclosure: Large loads must disclose if they have on-site backup generators. ERCOT can now order these facilities to switch to their own power during energy alerts.

SB07: Increasing Investments in Texas' Water Supply (Law)

Texas Water Fund: In conjunction with HJR 7 (and voter-approved Proposition 4), it creates a dedicated fund of \$1 billion annually for water projects.

Eligible Projects: Expands funding for desalination, water reuse, wastewater treatment, and fixing aging or leaking pipes.

Oversight: Directs the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to facilitate joint planning between regional entities and sets performance measures to track infrastructure progress.

SB08: Requiring Local Law Enforcement to Assist the Federal Government's Deportation Efforts (Law)

Mandatory Agreements: Sheriffs in counties with populations of 100,000 or more are required to request and enter into 287(g) agreements with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Enforcement Powers: These agreements authorize designated local deputies to perform certain federal immigration duties, such as serving administrative warrants and questioning individuals about their status in county jails.

Compliance Deadlines: Eligible sheriffs must comply by December 1, 2026. If a request is denied by the federal government, the sheriff must re-apply annually and provide proof of the attempt to the Texas Attorney General.

State Funding: While the mandate is largely unfunded, the law establishes a grant program administered by the Texas Comptroller to help counties cover implementation costs.

B09: Reforming Bail Keeping Violent Criminals Off Our Streets (Law)

Governor Greg Abbott signed Senate Bill 9, Senate Bill 40, House Bill 75, and Senate Joint Resolution 5 to protect Texans by keeping violent, repeat offenders behind bars.

"This session, we confronted a crisis, a revolving door bail system that repeatedly released dangerous criminals back onto the streets," said Governor Abbott. "To the victims and their families, today your pain is answered. Not only are we signing laws that correct the wrongs, your efforts have led to a rewriting of the Constitution of the State of Texas to ensure criminals like those who harmed your families will never be out on the loose again."

SB10: Placing the Ten Commandments in Schools (Law)

Mandate: Public schools must display a durable poster or framed copy of the Ten Commandments (at least 16 by 20 inches) in a conspicuous location in every classroom.

SB11: Protecting the Freedom to Pray in Schools (Law)

Signed into law in June 2025 and effective September 1, 2025, this version of SB 11 allows school boards to set aside specific times for voluntary religious activities.

Mandatory Vote: Every Texas school district must take a formal record vote by March 2026 on whether to adopt a policy allowing a daily period for prayer and reading religious texts, such as the Bible.

Parental Consent: Students and employees can only participate if they (or their parent/guardian) provide signed written consent, which can be revoked at any time.

Legal Protections: The law includes a waiver of liability for schools and requires the Texas Attorney General to defend districts in court if they are sued for implementing these policies.

Restrictions: Prayer periods cannot be broadcast over a public address system and must not replace required instructional time.

SB12: Establishing a Parental Bill of Rights (Law)

Annual Health Consent: Requires school districts to obtain written parental consent every year before providing routine health services, including vision and hearing screenings, basic first aid, and short-term counseling. Many districts (such as Mansfield ISD) now use portals like Skyward for this mandatory form.

Instructional Transparency: Mandates that teachers provide parents with course syllabi or instructional plans at the beginning of each semester.

Social Transitioning & LGBTQ+ Restrictions:

"Social Transitioning": Prohibits school employees from assisting students with social transitioning, which includes using a name or pronouns that differ from the student's assigned sex at birth.

Instruction Ban: Formally bans instruction or programming regarding sexual orientation or gender identity for all grades (Pre-K through 12).

Student Clubs: Bars districts from sponsoring clubs based on sexual orientation or gender identity, effectively banning Gay-Straight Alliances (GSAs).

DEI Prohibition: Restricts school districts from assigning Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) duties to employees or using DEI statements in hiring.

SB 13: Guarding Against Inappropriate Books in Public Schools (Law)

Book Bans: Prohibits school libraries from acquiring or possessing books that are considered "sexually explicit" or "educationally unsuitable."

Mandatory Reviews: Requires districts to conduct an annual review of their entire library collection and post a list of all library books on the district's website for public inspection.

Parental Notification: Schools must notify parents via email whenever their child checks out a book from the school library.

Vendor Ratings: Book vendors are required to "rate" books for sexual content before selling them to schools; those who fail to do so or provide "incorrect" ratings may be barred from doing business with Texas schools.

SB 14: Texas DOGE Improving Government Efficiency (Law)

Texas Regulatory Efficiency Office (TREO): Establishes a new office within the Governor's office—often compared to a state-level "DOGE" (Department of Government Efficiency)—to identify and eliminate outdated or ineffective state agency rules.

Judicial Deference: Significantly changes how courts handle lawsuits against state agencies. It removes the requirement for courts to defer to an agency's interpretation of an ambiguous law, allowing judges to review legal questions independently.

Plain Language Mandate: Requires all new state agency rules to be written in "plain language" that the general public can easily understand.

Public Access: Mandates the creation of a centralized, searchable website for all state agency regulations.

SB 15: Removing Barriers to Housing Affordability (Law)

Senate Bill 15, by Sen. Paul Bettencourt, allows townhomes and starter homes to be built by right, in new neighborhoods in cities with a population of greater than 150,000 located in counties with a population of 300,000 or more. SB 15 prohibits city-mandated minimum lot sizes greater than 1,400 square feet for new neighborhoods. In these new neighborhoods, property owners will have the freedom to determine the size of the lot and the home. The bill also preserves existing neighborhoods and allows property owners to create higher minimum lot size rules through deed restrictions and HOA rules.

SB 16: Stopping Non-Citizens from Voting (Died into House)

SB 17: Stopping Foreign Adversaries' Land Grabs (Law)

Signed by Governor Abbott on June 20, 2025, and effective September 1, 2025, this version of SB 17 restricts the purchase of Texas property by individuals or entities from "designated countries".

Designated Countries: Targets nations identified as national security risks, initially listing China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea.

Prohibited Acquisitions: Bans these foreign nationals and entities from acquiring interests in agricultural, commercial, industrial, and residential real property.

Exemptions: Does not apply to U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents, even if they are from a designated country. It also allows a "homestead exception" for foreign nationals lawfully residing in the U.S. to purchase a primary residence.

Enforcement: Authorized by the Texas Attorney General, violations can lead to forced divestiture, civil penalties of at least \$250,000, or state jail felony charges for knowing violations.

SB 18: Banning Drag Time Story Hour (Died in House)

SB 19: Stopping Taxpayer Dollars for Lobbyists (Died in House)

SB 20: Stopping AI-Generated Child Pornography (Law)

Expansion of Offenses: Creates a new criminal offense for the possession, promotion, or production of obscene visual material that appears to depict a child under 18.

Covers AI & Animation: Specifically includes depictions created via artificial intelligence (AI), computer software, cartoons, or animations, regardless of whether an actual child was involved.

AI Model Training: Criminalizes the use of an actual minor's image to train AI models to produce sexually explicit content.

Penalties: Classified as a state jail felony, which can be elevated to a second-degree felony (up to 20 years in prison) for repeat offenders.

SB 21 Establishing the Texas Bitcoin Reserve (Law)

Establishment of the Reserve: Creates the Texas Strategic Bitcoin Reserve as a special fund outside the state treasury, overseen by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

Investment Mandate: Authorizes the Comptroller to acquire and manage Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies to serve as a hedge against inflation and economic volatility.

Qualified Assets: To ensure stability, any purchased cryptocurrency must have an average market capitalization of at least \$500 billion over the previous 24 months.

Security Standards: Requires the use of cold storage (offline physical storage) and allows the state to contract with qualified custodians to protect private keys.

Advisory Committee: Establishes a five-member Texas Strategic Bitcoin Reserve Advisory Committee, consisting of the Comptroller and four experts, to provide guidance on investment policies.

Reporting: Requires the Comptroller to publish a biennial report detailing the reserve's holdings, market value, and management actions.

SB 22: Generating Significant Returns for the Texas Economy (Law)

Massive Funding Increase: Establishes a dedicated Texas Moving Image Industry Incentive Fund outside the state treasury. It mandates that the Texas Comptroller deposit \$300 million into this fund every two years.

Grant Structure: Productions can receive grants covering 5% to 25% of their total in-state spending, depending on the project type and budget size.

New "Bonus" Grants: Provides additional 2.5% incentives for projects that qualify for specific categories, including rural filming (35% or more filming in counties under 300,000 population), faith-based projects, and projects employing honorably discharged Texas veterans.

Content Restrictions: Grants the Governor's Film Office broad authority to deny funding for projects deemed "inappropriate" or that portray Texas or Texans in a "negative fashion".

Residency Requirements: Implements a tiered system for production crews; starting at 35% Texas residency in 2025, the requirement gradually increases to 50% by 2031.

SB 23: Increasing the Homestead Exemption to \$200,000 for Seniors (Law)

Homestead Exemption Increase: Increases the specific school district homestead exemption for individuals who are 65 or older or disabled from \$10,000 to \$60,000.

Total Savings: When combined with other 2025 legislation (like SB 4), this brings the total homestead exemption for seniors and the disabled to \$200,000.

Voter Approval Required: Because it changes the state constitution, the increase was contingent on voter approval of SJR 85 in the November 4, 2025, election.

School Funding "Hold Harmless": The state is required to provide additional aid to school districts to ensure they do not lose revenue due to the increased exemptions.

SB 24: Educating Texas Students on the Horrors of Communism (Law)

Curriculum Requirement: Requires the State Board of Education (SBOE) to include instruction on communist ideologies and regimes in the social studies curriculum for students in grades 4 through 12.

Key Topics: Must cover historical events and atrocities such as the Great Leap Forward, the Holodomor (Ukrainian Famine), the Cambodian genocide, and the policies of the Communist Party of Cuba.

Comparative Analysis: Students will compare these ideologies with the U.S. founding principles of freedom, democracy, individual rights, and free enterprise.

Timeline: The SBOE must revise standards by July 31, 2026, for implementation starting in the 2026–2027 school year.

SB 25: Making Texas Healthy Again (Law)

Food Warning Labels: Starting January 1, 2027, food manufacturers must place warning labels on products containing any of 44 specific additives (including Red 40, Yellow 5, and bleached flour) that are restricted in countries like Canada or the UK.

Texas Nutrition Advisory Committee: Establishes a new committee to study the health impacts of ultra-processed foods and develop official state nutritional guidelines.

Education Mandates:

K-12: Requires daily physical activity (at least 30 minutes) for students in K-8 and prohibits schools from revoking recess as a punishment.

Higher Ed & Medical: Requires medical schools and other health-related degree programs to implement a nutrition curriculum to remain eligible for state funding.

Healthcare Professionals: Mandates continuing medical education in nutrition and metabolic health for physicians and nurses as a condition for license renewal.

Legal Challenges: In December 2025, several trade groups filed a federal lawsuit seeking to block the labeling requirements, arguing they are preempted by federal law.

SB 26 (PASSED AS HB 2 above) Increasing Teacher Pay (Law)

SB 27 (PASSED AS HB 2 above) Establishing a Teacher Bill of Rights (Law)

SB 28 (PASSED AS SB 3070) Banning Lottery Couriers (Law)

Abolishment and Transfer: Formally dissolved the Texas Lottery Commission and moved the administration of the state lottery and the regulation of charitable bingo to the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation (TCLR) and its administrative agency, TDLR.

Ban on Digital Sales: Prohibits and criminalizes the play or facilitation of lottery games via telephone, internet applications, or mobile apps. Violations of this prohibition are classified as Class A misdemeanors.

Ticket Purchase Limits: Implements a strict cap on physical ticket sales, barring anyone from selling more than 100 lottery tickets to an individual in a single transaction. Violations are Class B misdemeanors.

Sunset Review: Mandates a limited-scope Sunset Review of the state lottery program to be conducted during the fiscal biennium ending August 31, 2029 (some early drafts targeted 2027) to evaluate if the lottery should continue to exist.

New Oversight Committees: Requires the establishment of both a Lottery Advisory Committee and a Bingo Advisory Committee to provide external expertise and independent input on operations.

Enhanced Accountability: Mandates annual audits by the State Auditor, stricter record preservation rules, and public disclosure of all policymaking meetings to improve transparency.

SB 29 Texas: Open for Business (Law)

Codification of the Business Judgment Rule: Formally codifies the common law doctrine that protects directors and officers from personal liability for decisions made in good faith. It establishes a statutory presumption that they act on an informed basis and in the best interest of the corporation.

Derivative Litigation Reform: Allows corporations to set a minimum ownership threshold of up to 3% of outstanding shares as a requirement for shareholders to file a derivative lawsuit.

Exclusive Venue & Jury Waivers: Permits companies to designate specific Texas courts (like the new Texas Business Court) as the exclusive venue for internal disputes and allows for the waiver of jury trials through governing documents.

Restricted Books and Records Access: Limits shareholder requests for electronic communications like emails, text messages, and social media posts, unless they "effectuate a corporate action".

Director Independence Pre-assessment: Establishes a novel mechanism where corporations can petition a court for an upfront determination of a special committee's independence before they approve sensitive transactions.

"Texas, Not Delaware" Affirmation: Clarifies that while Texas officials may consider other states' laws for guidance, they are under no obligation to conform to Delaware norms, insulating them from liability based on foreign judicial doctrines.

SB 30 Curbing Nuclear Verdicts (Died in House)

SB 31 Life of the Mother Act (Law)

Defining Medical Emergencies: Clarifies that a condition does not have to be "imminent" or "irreversible" to qualify as a life-threatening medical emergency. Physicians may address a risk before a patient suffers physical damage.

Specific Conditions: Confirms that treatments for ectopic pregnancies and spontaneous abortions (miscarriages) are not prohibited abortions under Texas law.

Aiding and Abetting Protection: Specifies that communications between doctors, hospital administrators, and lawyers regarding medical emergencies do not constitute "aiding and abetting" an illegal abortion.

Burden of Proof: Shifts the burden of proof to the state to prove that a medical emergency exception did not apply, rather than forcing the physician to prove that it did.

Education Requirements:

Medical Professionals: Requires the Texas Medical Board to provide a one-hour continuing education course on these laws, which obstetricians must complete before their next license renewal after January 1, 2026.

Legal Professionals: Mandates the State Bar of Texas to offer free legal education for attorneys on the regulation of abortion.

SB 32 (PASSED AS HB 9 above) Business Tax Relief (Law)

SB 33 Stopping Taxpayer-Funded Abortion Travel (Law)

Logistical Support Ban: Prohibits cities, counties, and other governmental entities from spending public money on services for the purpose of helping someone procure an abortion. This includes funding for:

- Travel and transportation (e.g., gas, airfare, or Uber/Lyft credits).
- Lodging and meals while traveling for care.
- Childcare and doula services related to the procedure.
- Counseling that encourages or facilitates an abortion.

Restricted Entities: Bars governmental entities from entering into any "taxpayer resource transaction" with an abortion provider or a new category called an "abortion assistance entity"—any organization that facilitates abortions through financial or logistical support.

Enforcement: Grants the Texas Attorney General the power to file civil lawsuits to stop these expenditures and recover court costs and attorney's fees from the violating entity.

Immunity Waiver: Formally waives the sovereign or governmental immunity of local entities for the purposes of these lawsuits, making it easier for the state to sue cities or counties.

SB 34 Wildfire Response (Law)

Statewide Equipment Database: Requires the Texas A&M Forest Service to create and maintain a real-time database of all firefighting equipment available in the state. This allows departments to search for specific assets by location during an emergency.

Targeted Funding: Allocates at least 10% of the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program funds specifically to departments located in areas identified as high-risk for large wildfires.

Wildfire Risk Study: Mandates a joint study by the Forest Service and West Texas A&M University to map "fuel loading" (combustible material) and establish wildfire risk zones. A formal report with legislative recommendations is due by December 1, 2026.

Power Line Oversight: Requires the Public Utility Commission (PUC) and the Railroad Commission to collaborate on standards for electrical lines at oil and gas sites, allowing them to order power disconnections if faulty equipment poses a fire risk.

SB 35 Competing for Quality Roads (Died in House)

SB 36 Establishing a Homeland Security Division within DPS (Law)

Establishment of the Division: Formally creates the Homeland Security Division within DPS to lead multi-agency and public-private efforts to enhance state resiliency.

Border Security Consolidation: The division now manages Operation Drawbridge (surveillance cameras) and oversees the Border Security Operations Center and Joint Operations and Intelligence Centers.

Critical Infrastructure Protection: Prioritizes the protection of four key sectors: energy, communications, transportation, and water/wastewater systems.

Intelligence Coordination: Centralizes the collection and analysis of intelligence related to border threats and infrastructure vulnerabilities, ensuring better information sharing between federal, state, and local partners.

Infrastructure Liaison Officer Program: Operates a program to train volunteers from public and private organizations to identify and report threats to critical infrastructure.

State Strategic Planning: Mandates the development of a comprehensive homeland security strategic plan and facilitates large-scale exercises to test state readiness for emergencies like mass migrations.

SB 37 Reforming Faculty Senates (Law)

Signed by Governor Abbott on June 20, 2025, and effective September 1, 2025, this law overhauls how public universities manage curriculum, hiring, and faculty representation.

Faculty Senate Restructuring: Effectively abolished existing faculty senates on September 1, 2025, unless they were restructured to comply with new state mandates.

Membership: Caps faculty councils at 60 members.

Leadership: Rather than being elected by peers, presiding officers and other leaders are now appointed by the university president with board approval.

Limited Role: Formally defines these bodies as strictly advisory, explicitly prohibiting them from issuing statements or reports on matters outside their direct advisory scope.

Board Oversight of Hiring: Grants university systems' Boards of Regents expanded authority to approve or deny the hiring of provosts and deans. The board can also overturn hiring decisions for vice presidents and other administrative leadership.

Curriculum & Degree Reviews:

General Education: Requires a comprehensive review of the core curriculum every five years to ensure courses are "foundational" and prepare students for civic life.

"Low Enrollment" Programs: Mandates a review of minors and certificate programs every five years to identify those with low enrollment for potential consolidation or elimination.

Credential of Value: Establishes a "credential of value" review process to rate degree programs based on student debt and return on investment (ROI).

Office of the Ombudsman: Creates a new office within the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to investigate complaints of noncompliance with this and other state laws, such as the 2023 DEI ban.

Faculty Grievance Exclusion: Clarifies that faculty members may no longer be involved in the final decision-making process for faculty grievances or disciplinary procedures; these powers are reserved for the president or provost.

SB 38 Stopping Squatters (Law)

Summary Disposition (Trial-Free Judgment): Introduces a new process where landlords can obtain a judgment for possession without a trial if they file a sworn petition and the tenant fails to show a genuine factual dispute within four days.

Expedited Timelines: Requires justice courts to hold trials for eviction suits between 10 and 21 days after the petition is filed.

Strict Appeals Process: Tenants appealing a judgment must now swear under penalty of perjury that their appeal is made in good faith and not solely to delay the process.

Writ of Possession Speed: Mandates that law enforcement officers serve a writ of possession within five business days of its issuance.

Electronic Notice: Allows landlords to deliver eviction notices via electronic communication (like email) if the parties have a written agreement to do so.

Expanded Service Options: If a sheriff or constable cannot serve a citation within five days, landlords may hire off-duty officers or other authorized process servers to ensure the timeline is met.

Limited Court Jurisdiction: Barred justice courts from ruling on property title disputes or counterclaims during an eviction case; the sole focus is the immediate right to physical possession.

SB 39 Protecting Texas Trucking (Died in House)

SB 40 Bail Reform (Law)

Signed into law by Governor Abbott in June 2025 and effective September 1, 2025, this version of SB 40 prohibits local governments from using public money to support bail funds.

The Prohibition: Political subdivisions (cities, counties, etc.) are barred from spending public funds to pay nonprofit organizations that use donations to post bail bonds for defendants.

Legal Recourse: Residents or taxpayers within a jurisdiction can seek injunctive relief (a court order) to stop any illegal payments discovered.

Recovery of Costs: A party who successfully sues to block these funds is entitled to recover their reasonable attorney's fees and court costs from the local government.

Purpose: The bill aims to limit local government involvement in bail assistance programs, which proponents argue ensures public safety by preventing the release of high-risk offenders through taxpayer-supported funds.