



## 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
Jim Wright	Railroad Commissioner

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

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| 1. | Please describe the qualifications and experience that make you the best candidate in your political race.  |
|    | <b>Answer: Answer: I have served on the Texas Railroad Commission since 2021, where I have remained focused on commonsense regulation, environmental responsibility, and forward-thinking energy solutions. Prior to that, I am a lifelong rancher and oil and gas entrepreneur who has been in the industry since the age of 19. Since taking office, I have been proud to oversee regulations that will continue to power Texas into the future. Texas energy production is a cornerstone of our state’s economy and is responsible for 43% of U.S. oil production, 29% of U.S. Natural gas production, and is home to 1/3 of US refining capacity. Without Texas, the concept of U.S. Energy Independence would be nothing more than a pipe dream.</b> |

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: I am running to keep Texas energy on track. I am not a career politician and have no desire to seek any other political office. My focus has and will continue to be ensuring the Texas energy sector remains the envy of the world. As a small business owner, I felt that the Railroad Commission needed someone with boots-on-the-ground experience who understands how policy choices impact everyone in our state, from energy producers to employees, landowners to the general public.**

**It is essential that we keep Texas energy both powerful and independent. Prior to President Trump's election, I held the line against Biden's Bureaucrats who had every intention of harming or shutting down our domestic oil and gas industry. Now, with President Trump back in the White House, I have worked hand in hand with his Administration to dismantle Biden's green new deal policies and bring common sense back to our domestic energy sector. Maintaining access to the vast amounts of affordable, responsibly produced natural resources God has blessed Texas with is critical to furthering President Trump's aims to reshore and revitalize American manufacturing.**

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

**Answer: As mentioned above, it is paramount that we protect Texas energy production, especially oil and gas. This can boil down to three main points: strong oil and gas production, fair and consistent regulation, and protecting the land, water, and people of Texas. I believe the path to energy security runs through Texas. That's why I am pushing back on unnecessary federal delays and working to speed up permitting at the state level. We have a pro-energy administration in the White House, and now is the time to act. We must make sure that Texas not only leads in energy production, but in innovation as well.**

**In addition to this, we must develop responsible regulations that protect landowners, groundwater, and community safety while encouraging investment and long-term opportunity. This also means that we must protect the landowner rights of Texans all over the state. As a lifelong rancher, I understand first-hand the importance of protecting private property, and I have that at the forefront of my mind every day as Commissioner.**

4. What changes can be made to the Railroad Commissioner office to improve productivity, reduce waste and increase efficiency?
- Answer: The Railroad Commission already operates under extensive oversight that drives efficiency and accountability — including routine reviews by our internal auditor, the State Auditor’s Office, the Sunset Commission, and the Texas Legislature. These regular audits ensure that the agency is continuously improving processes, eliminating waste, and aligning resources with statutory responsibilities.**
- That said, there are ongoing opportunities to increase both efficiency and effectiveness. Modernizing data systems, streamlining permitting workflows, and expanding digital tools for operators can reduce administrative costs and speed up service delivery. Strengthening cross-divisional coordination and leveraging performance metrics can also improve how quickly the agency responds to industry needs and public concerns. Any proposed change should be implemented through transparent processes, guided by staff expertise, and tied to measurable improvements in regulatory performance.**

5. What are your strategies to attract new investment in mining for “rare earth” minerals within Texas (lanthanides, uranium, etc.) to help reduce the US dependence on China?
- Answer: Having access to a domestic source for critical minerals, including rare earth metals, is a strategic national security priority. As many folks know, rare earth metals are not inherently “rare”, but rather they do not often have large ore deposits or are concentrated in sufficient quantities that make recovery economically viable. However, there is significant potential to recover critical minerals in Texas as a part of the treatment of produced water for beneficial reuse.**
- Texas currently disposes via underground injection 25 to 30 million barrels of water that is generated as a part of oil and gas production every day, and there is both a need and desire to treat this water for beneficial uses, including agricultural irrigation, industrial purposes, and aquifer recharge. Importantly, the treatment process is necessary to remove metals and other total dissolved solids, and recovery of these resources helps offset the cost of treatment.**
- During my tenure at the Railroad Commission, I have had many conversations about the potential for extracting minerals such as lithium and other critical minerals from the produced water as part of the treatment process. For Texas, treating produced water is a win-win because it provides our state with a previously untapped water source while providing the volume necessary to make the extraction of these critical minerals economically and commercially viable. It holds much promise and is something I have and continue to work towards.**

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](mailto:alex@cchc-pac.org)

