



Questions for Candidates for Harris County Dept. of Education Trustee Conservative Coalition of Harris County

This questionnaire will be posted onto the conservative coalition of Harris County website for public viewing.

Candidate Name	Position for which Candidate is Running
Fred Flickinger	Harris County School Trustee, Place 5

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 for the office you are running.

Answer: As a Director of Operations I have private sector experience in managing a division with annual revenues of \$30 million. I have extensive experience in developing budgets, forecasts and being held responsible for the financial results. I am skilled in finding areas of cost savings and discovering inappropriate expenditures.

2. Please describe what you believe are the most significant issues in this race and why.

Answer: The most significant issue for HCDE is the manner in which this entity will operate in the future. There are two widely held opinions which differ greatly. One is that it should not exist at all and the other is it should continue to operate as the status quo.

3. If you are elected, what do you hope to accomplish while serving as a Harris Dept. Education Trustee?

Answer: My goal is to eliminate the \$25 million in direct property taxes HCDE collects annually.

4. What good things are happening in the district and should be enhanced or continued?

Answer: The Choice Partners Program is outstanding. It collected \$6 million in excess of it's operating expenses last year in addition to being beneficial to both the ISD's and the vendors who are a part of the program. Essentially it was a win/win/win.

5. What ideas do you have for Harris County Dept. of Education to reduce expenditures?
Answer: Administrative overheads as a percentage of total budget need to be reviewed in comparison to the ISD's which it serves. A quick comparison of these organizational charts appears to show a significant delta.
6. As a Harris County Dept. of Education Trustee would you approve the operation of revenue producing businesses that compete with privately owned companies?
Answer: No
7. As a Harris County Dept. of Education Trustee would you approve providing services outside Harris County?
Answer: If the work is within the current scope of HCDE and the work generates revenue which exceeds costs, then I would. If it does not meet this criteria, then no.
8. As a Harris County Dept. of Education Trustee, if you find that current county services can be provided to local school districts by non-profits, would you be willing to vote to abolish your position and stop the collection of the added countywide education property tax?
Answer: Absolutely. I would also add that this is my position on government in general. If the private sector is able to provide any service at either a reduced rate or at a higher quality, then it should be privatized.
9. Do you think the state legislature should pass legislation to consolidate the Harris County Department of Education system into the existing local ISDs within Harris County? If not, why is the Harris County Department of Education system needed anymore?
Answer: At this time I have not formed an opinion on this, and need to learn more not only about HCDE but also as to how ISD's who do not use their services accomplish this work. The ultimate question is whether or not the value proposition provided by HCDE is superior to the solutions currently utilized in other counties.
10. Please list any other information or comments that you deem are important to this race.
Answer: It is imperative that a final decision be made on HCDE's future. I see an organization that appears a bit paranoid which I believe leads to poor decisions.

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.