



Questions for Candidates for County Sheriff from the Conservative Coalition of Harris County

This questionnaire will be posted onto the Conservative Coalition of Harris County website for public voter viewing.

Candidate Name	Position for which the Candidate is Running
Paul Day	Harris County Sheriff

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

- Please describe the qualifications and experience that make you the best candidate for the office for which you are running.

Answer I joined the US Army Infantry in 1967 and was honorably discharged in 1969. I obtained my Bachelors of Science Degree in 1972, then after completing the police academy in 1973, where I then worked as a patrol officer for Niagara Falls, NY PD. I relocated to Houston, Texas where I joined the Houston Police Department in 1976. While I was an HPD officer I was on patrol in NE Houston and in 1979, I joined the HPD SWAT Team, where I was on the entry team, marksman, and in charge of intelligence gathering and training coordinator. I obtained TCOLE Certification as an instructor which I still maintain to this date. During my time with HPD, I was instrumental in helping to establish the first full time Domestic Violence Unit for HPD and taught the year long initial sensitivity training for law enforcement officers to deal with domestic violence calls and issues. I finished my 31,5 year career with HPD in the North Command Patrol Division from 1996-2208, where I retired honorably.

I then applied and was hired by the HCSO in 2009 and was assigned to the North Patrol District of the HCSO (District 1), where I currently serve as a patrol deputy handling all types of calls for service and am privileged to interact with the community and business owners in the North Division of HCSO. This has allowed me to hear first hand the issues and problems in the community and for the businesses that they face which has inspired me to become a candidate again for Harris County Sheriff. I see the daily dedication of our employees and the high level of their knowledge and commitment to policing. It is my desire to make this department one of the best functioning departments in the nation for the deputies, employees and citizens. I am a Christian and family man and this has been what drives me and my career to effect the most positive changes for the Harris County citizens. I am married and have seven children, 14 grandchildren and a great granddaughter. I am also extremely proud that three of my children have successfully followed in my law enforcement steps, one who has been with HPD for 18 years.

2. Please explain why you are running for this position and what differentiates you from the other candidates.

Answer: I am the only candidate that is still employed in a law enforcement capacity. I have the longest time in law enforcement of any other candidate. I have the most well rounded and diverse training and experience of any other candidate and I have completed more than 4000 hours of State certified in-service training. I answered the call to combat and address domestic violence issues early in my career. I am running for Harris County Sheriff to continue that calling and implement ways to combat these crimes and all other crimes to make our community a better place to live and raise our families.

3. Please describe two or three main issues facing the Harris County Sheriff Department and Harris County Jail, and your proposed solutions regarding them.

Answer: 1) Currently the HCSO has minimal deputies assigned to specific departments i.e. Human Trafficking, Domestic Violence and Crimes Against Children. I intend to move the assigned PCN Slots around to accommodate the needs of the citizens and the demand of the Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking crisis,
2) The patrol division has been understaffed and neglected in its needs for too long. which has resulted in low morale and officer safety issues. I intend to transform the patrol division into, at least, half of all patrol officers into two man units for the high priority calls and officer safety. This allows for more detailed and efficient investigations.
3) The jail issues stem from MHU issues. as well as, the growing Opioid epidemic in Harris County. I plan on implementing better ways and options for addicted inmates and defendants to a path of drug treatment and real assistance to help them achieve long term sobriety. Also assisting for the homeless with drug issues, to help with housing once drug free. I also want to implement better training for our jail personnel and staff. Our HCSO Academy is under utilized.

4. Please describe your opinion of what Harris County Sheriff Department's role is in local law enforcement. Should constable office personnel be consolidated within Harris County Sheriff office?

Answer: The Sheriff is the leading law enforcement officer in the county, per the Texas Constitution, our role is to ensure the safety and quality of life in the unincorporated areas of the county, to effectively patrol those areas and address any and all concerns of the citizens to make safe neighborhoods and patrol proactively instead of the current reactive patrol. The other primary role of the Sheriff, is to run and manage the county jail. We have the third largest Sheriff's Office in America and therefore, require constant training and oversight to maintain the quality and protection of the jail.

The constables were originally designed to serve Civil Process, execute Class C warrants, and assist the Justice of the Peace in their processes. Returning the patrol positions to the HCSO would allow more proactive policing. The current division with the positions given to the constables, causes overlap and very little interagency cooperation. This is detrimental to the safety of the community and poorly used resources. so in answer to the question, all non civil process positions should be consolidated into the HCSO.

5. Please describe your ideas toward boosting department morale and increasing confidence in your office with the general public.

Answer: Morale can be fixed easily with more interaction between the deputies and jailers with the command staff. The surmountable division between the current command staff administration and the boots on the ground has caused most deputies to feel unappreciated while overworked. Their suggestions are not being heard or addressed and since they are the ones who deal with the day to day issues, their input is invaluable. This also has caused less applicants, more senior personnel retiring earlier and a higher turnover of employees, when at one time, HCSO was the most desired employment in the county and our area.

I want to increase confidence with the public. When the public knows their concerns are being heard and addressed they will feel they are a part of the community and have more daily interaction with our deputies. When you know who is protecting you and your community, then you feel more a part of it as a whole. This is how law enforcement connects to the community and increases confidence and transparency to rebuild much needed trust. I intend to have monthly open meetings in each district with the citizens of those districts, the supervisors in those districts, the deputies that patrol there along with members of the Command Staff. One can only effectively police an area if all parties are speaking openly and reach an effective solution to the problems they are facing. I also intend to implement an interactive website for the public to address issues in their specific community and to see what measures we are taking.

6. There has been a lot of criticism lately from the National Press about law enforcement officers. What sort of things can to public and local press do to enhance the department's image and effectiveness, in order to make the deputies' job easier?

Answer: It begins with transparency to the public and media from the HCSO and continues with the media reporting the above and beyond the call of service that happens within our department, being reported. I will make sure that the services that the HCSO offers are available to those who need them. I will appoint a Public Information Officer (PIO) that will be available to the press and media to answer questions as they currently do, but also to release the progress we make in the communities. I believe that showing recognition to our employees when they excel above and beyond needs to be individually commended and would like for this to be acknowledged by the media for the community to see and know the extraordinary dedication of our employees. This also addresses the low morale within the department and the mostly negative reports of the current times. seen in the media.

7. Please describe any changes to the department's day-to-day operation that your office might make in this coming term to improve efficiencies.

Answer: The following are some examples:
At least half of the patrol division will be two man units, more in service training for specific divisions geared to improving their specific duties. more pro active policing in the community, reorganization of current deputies to expand units such as Domestic Violence, Human Trafficking, Juvenile Division, etc. Restructuring the deputies and divisions is a much needed and major part of fixing the current problems in the department. After reorganizing the divisions in the HCSO, I will utilize many of the current positions that are overly repetitive, to address the crimes in the above mentioned divisions. I also intend to form a full time DWI Division, as Harris County currently is at the top of the national list of statistics on Alcohol related traffic deaths in America. This has been a long overdue issue that needs to be addressed fulltime and not just on holiday weekends.

8. Harris County has seen a large influx in population over the last couple of years. What steps have been done or are needed to handle the increasing county population?

Answer: The increase has not been properly addressed as of now. I intend to look at each district and reassign manpower to address the population growth. Again, this means a reassigning of personnel and deputies to the areas needed and not from an outdated protocol currently being used to assign deputies. I will make sure that the population growth will be monitored so that we have the proper patrol in those areas and are proactive in this instead of reactive.

9. Please describe ways in which law enforcement agencies can better collaborate between each other. What steps will you take to foster better communication between agencies?
- Answer:** Currently there is little to no information sharing between agencies, with the exception of task forces. I intend to have meetings with all 50 plus agencies within Harris County and the adjoining counties to share information and work together to lower crime and improve areas that have quality of life issues that need to be addressed by law enforcement. We need to share information, because criminals and criminal organizations do not operate within municipality jurisdictions. When we share information it will lead to better crime control and subsequently better information for prosecution. Through this way of policing, we can also help with the Harris County's large and growing homeless issue and work together to start addressing the long overdue Opioid crisis
10. Is Harris County prepared for a large emergency event, such as a major hurricane? If not, what additional steps would you recommend be taken by county officials to better prepare residents for such an event?
- Answer:** As this is an issue that is controlled by Harris County Commissioner Court, we as employees are only made aware of plans upon the impending weather disaster. I, however, intend to obtain copies of all measures for disaster protocol and implement both standard operating procedures for the department and staff, as well as, finding any ways to improve operations and protect your citizens safety and their property. I want to be sure we have enough emergency shelters and personnel to effect the operations.
11. Please list any other information or comments that you deem are important to this race.
- Answer:** I want to make sure that the hard working employees of the HCSO are proud to be HCSO employees, appreciated and acknowledged for the work they do as they once felt, have confidence in their leadership and Command Staff, and once again enjoy going to work.
I want to instill confidence in the community and ensure the citizens that the HCSO values their input and will function with transparency and solutions for providing safety and security in their community.
In closing a statement from Sam Houston, A good leader improves the lives of other people and the system they live under.
Success doesn't come from what you do occasionally, rather it comes from what you do consistently.
Your morals and your ethics are what you do when no one else is watching.
Because the Lord is always watching.

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.