



## Questions for Candidates for Court of Appeals 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 Candidate is Running
Chad Bridges	First Court of Appeals - 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 for which you are running.

**Answer:** I have judicial experience handling both civil and criminal cases and I have the most extensive background handling criminal appellate matters in this race.

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

**Answer:** Finding the Republican best able to keep this bench in November.

3. Which Supreme Court Justice most closely represents your judicial philosophy? Please explain why.

**Answer:** Justice Alito. He is a conservative pragmatist that follows the law.

4. List the state(s) in which you are or have been licensed to practice law, and the date(s) you received such licenses.

**Answer:** Texas - 1994

5. List the state or federal court(s) in which you are or have been licensed to practice, and the date(s) you received such licenses.

**Answer:** Southern District of Texas 2001

6. Are your licenses in “good standing” in each state and federal jurisdiction in which you have been licensed; why or why not?

**Answer:** Yes. As an Assistant District Attorney and State District Court Judge, I did not practice in federal court so my admission lapsed in the Southern District.

7. Please list the undergraduate colleges or universities, law schools and any other graduate schools that you attended, the years you attended, the degrees you received and the years of any and all graduations.

**Answer:** Texas A&M BA - 1994, University of Houston Law Center JD - 1994

8. What carries the greatest influence in your rulings: civil and criminal case law, the Constitution, state statutes, or other?

**Answer: 1. The Constitution, 2. the statutes promulgated by the legislative branch, 3. caselaw.**

9. Please identify what changes can be made to the court of appeals system to make it more efficient from your point of view.

**Answer:** The time between submitting cases for decision and opinions being issued needs to be shortened.

10. What has been your greatest accomplishment in your legal career? In your personal life?

**Answer:** Professionally: The Carol Rees Award for Outstanding Service to Crime Victims. Personally: My family.

11. Please explain why you do, or do not, support applying term limits to Court of Appeals Justices.

**Answer:** I believe there should be a limit of two terms for appellate justices. That is twelve years. A third term (for 18 years) is too long in my opinion.

12. Do you believe that voluntary professional and community service is a necessary commitment for persons holding public office? What forms of voluntary professional and community service have you been involved with in the past? Currently?

**Answer:** I teach volunteers at the Fort Bend County Women’s Center, I have delivered meals to seniors in Fort Bend County, and I was (along with my wife) volunteer of the year for the Fort Bend Youth Football League’s Pecan Grove Gators.

13. What do you think are the most important aspects of the Court of Appeals that voters should be aware of?

**Answer:** That the intermediate appellate courts handle both civil and criminal appeals, unlike the Supreme Court of Texas and the Court of Criminal Appeals.

14. Do you have judicial experience? To what extent have you practiced in the area of Civil or Criminal law?

**Answer:** I was appointed by Governor Abbott in 2015 to be the Judge of the 240th District Court. The 240th is a general jurisdiction court hearing both civil and criminal cases. I have tried both civil and criminal cases as a trial court judge and I have handled both civil and criminal appeals as an attorney (although the bulk of my appellate work is criminal). As a prosecutor I have tried hundreds of cases and dozens of appeals.

15. What ideas do you have to improve the efficiency of the appeals court to reduce case backlog?

**Answer:** There needs to be accountability amongst the justices to review and circulate proposed opinions in a timely fashion.

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)

\* **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.