



Questions for Candidates for State Legislative Office 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 Candidate is Running
Dwight Ford	Texas House District 127

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 position for which you are running.
Answer: I am a current business owner and have over 20 years' experience working in the business community, negotiating high value contracts. I will bring this business experience to our government, working to bring efficiency and effectiveness to everything we do. As a lifelong Republican I hold and cherish the Conservative principles that our country was founded upon, including property rights, the 2nd amendment, and the freedom to practice religion without infringement of the government. The Representative position in the Texas House is one that should closely reflect the beliefs and values of the constituents that participate in the election. It is these values that I reflect, and that I will bring to this office.

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: My opponent is the third most liberal Republican in the Texas House. He has consistently voted in opposition to our conservative party and his constituents. I will **not** oppose anti-sanctuary city legislation (Schaefer Amendment) and vote with Democrats as my opponent has. After Harvey, my opponent voted against legislation (Middleton Amendment) that would ensure tax districts would have to reevaluate property taxes– this was unacceptable. Unfair property taxes are still a huge issue in our area. I would support school choice legislation, unlike my opponent. I would be a sponsor of bills that work to abolish abortion in our state.

3. What will be your top 3 priorities during your upcoming term?
Answer: Work to ensure that funding is secured for infrastructure improvements in the Lake Houston area, and ensure that a long-term plan is mapped out. Pass legislation prohibiting the violation of the rights and freedoms of individuals, organizations, and businesses, to exercise their sincerely held religious beliefs by local ordinances or laws. Pass legislation to abolish abortion.
4. The 2020-21 budget for state of Texas is approximately \$250 billion, up about 16% from the 2018-2019 budget. What budget items need to be addressed by state house representatives; what budget areas need to be cut and what taxes and fees need to be increased in the next legislative session?
Answer: I would recommend that we look at funding schools through a increased sales tax and do away with the onerous school property tax system. This is a foundational goal of the Texas Republican Party and makes fiscal sense. We do not need to increase taxes and fees, let's focus on making government leaner and more efficient. Growth should only be equitable to the rise in population and inflation. My opponent voted to kill a stronger cap on state spending.
5. What are your ideas toward public education funding within Texas? Are there areas where waste can be reduced, areas of revenue enhancement, or ideas to increase efficiencies, since the recent school finance package was approved in the last legislative session?
Answer: HB 3 includes a provision that school districts must have a third party efficiency audit performed before asking for asking voters to approve tax hikes. I would recommend that school districts must submit to an efficiency audit annually or bi-annually. Why only be audited when you ask for more money, what about how you utilize the funding you already receive? Sounds like just common sense. Non teacher staff growth should be limited to or less than the student growth of a school or district.
6. Please describe what you believe is the proper role for the state government in job creation and intervention in the economy.
Answer: I do not believe it is the function of the state government to create jobs or try to intervene in the economy. Allow the free market to function and work as it should.
7. What changes can be made to state agencies to improve productivity, reduce waste and increase efficiencies? Are there are agencies that can be combined or eliminated?
Answer: Agencies must continue to cut the fat out of budgets, be challenged to be more efficient with less. The Texas Commission on the Arts is an agency that does not fall even close to the scope of what the Texas budget should be spent on (over 9M in 2018).

8. What initiatives will you propose to help the voters in your district?
Answer: We need to take a close look at the HCFD, should it be expanded to include areas that overlap in Montgomery County? Continue to fight for tax relief by eliminating the School Maintenance and Operation tax and replacing it with a sales tax. Ensure that all state funds available are being used to repair and update Lake Houston infrastructure.
9. In the last legislative session, Lt. Governor Patrick set a [30-bill priority system](#) for the Texas Senate for the 2019-20 session. Is such a list a good idea for setting priorities in the House? If so, what items would you add to such a list?
Answer: Yes, this list is a great idea. Move forward with Constitutional carry in Texas. Let's move to implement a spending cap that takes into account the rise in population and inflation.
10. If elected, what qualifications will you look for in choosing a new Speaker of the House? Should minority parties be allowed to hold committee chairmanships as done in the past?
Answer: I would want a fiscally conservative leader with a proven track record. Chairmanships should be up to the House leadership.
11. Assuming you have read the [2018 Texas GOP Platform](#), what recent issues were not covered by the 2018-19 state legislative session and should be addressed in the future?
Answer: Legislation to stop the taxpayer funded collection of union dues. Legislation to abolish abortion. Do we need to expand the Harris County Flood Control District to include parts of neighboring Montgomery County?
12. Should the city of Houston continue to enjoy extra-territorial jurisdiction, including levying taxes on persons and transactions not in the actual city limits?
Answer: No, this is effectively black mail. Agreements that limit annexation for tax revenue should not be allowed.

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.