



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
Ryan Lee	Texas HD129

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: As a husband, father, small-business owner, and Houston firefighter, I appreciate our community and its expectations of state government. With a focus on public safety, public schools, community infrastructure, flood prevention, and taxes, I believe we can do better.

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: High energy and a commitment to engaging the district. We have a family run small business in Clear Lake. Like other residents, we are concerned about crime and homelessness. As a public safety advocate, I am not afraid to take on the liberal Houston politicians that ignore our communities. We have a young family, so protecting our local school districts is a priority. Strong schools maintain our property values which keeps businesses strong. My opponent supports private schools. His focus is on status-quo political patrons and special interests, not the community.

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

Answer: Public Safety, Public Education, Infrastructure

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:** Texas needs to start to pay off our debts with the recent increase of revenue. Increasing spending is placing priorities on pet projects, instead of putting us on a path to having a truly balanced budget. Austin needs to decide what the priority is, paying off debts or lowering taxes. While I am for lowering taxes, I want to see us pay off our debts first.
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:** I would like to see some new ideas on lowering the tax burden on homeowners by school taxes. One example of a new idea could be allowing liquor stores to sell on Sundays, with that tax revenue going only to education. My local school district forms committees for nearly every major decision. Gaining the participation of the citizens would bring local ideas to the table on reducing waste.
6. Please describe what you believe is the proper role for the state government in job creation and intervention in the economy.
- Answer:** Texas needs to continue their mission to make our state appealing to out of state employers. Easing some regulations should be the most that we do to intervene with the economy. I do feel that when we ease regulations they should be followed up with stiffer fines and penalties for violating any regulations left on that industry.
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:** Public Private partnerships could bring new ideas to government. Asking our private industries to take a larger role in government could streamline processes.
8. What initiatives will you propose to help the voters in your district?
- Answer:** My opponent voted against allowing local residents to digitally testify before Austin committees. Forcing citizens to drive to Austin so they can speak on an issue is suppressing their voice. Residents should be able to have a local way to speak to lawmakers.

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:** I do support the priority system; this puts everyone on the same page. I would like to see better transparency within city government. What they are lobbying for, the fact that local government deny freedom of information requests and the state allows it, needs to be changed. In the Houston election the city wanted to charge over a million dollars to see where our money was being spent. That must end.
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 think that the speaker will need to be respected by both sides. Texas is fighting to stay red, to give us a chance of staying red we need to work together in the balance we have now. Allowing minority parties to chair committees is common sense. We are 9 seats away from losing majority, allowing that now will help if we ever were to lose majority.
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:** Better transparency from local government. The citizens should not have to fight to know where their money is going.
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:** The city will not annex any more areas in my opinion since the only areas left to annex are red. I do not know the impact to the city budget if they lost the tax revenue.

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.

RYAN



LEE

For **State Rep. District 129**