



## 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
Mike Schofield	State Rep, HD 132

*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.
<b>Answer:</b> I worked six sessions of the legislature for Governor Rick Perry, and served two sessions as a member of the House. I have a thorough knowledge of how to get things done in the House and am therefore perfectly situated to advance conservative initiatives and kill bad bills.
  
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).
<b>Answer:</b> Having knocked on nearly 3,500 doors so far in this race, I can tell you that the issues most important to my constituents are the border, property taxes, flood control, and combatting human trafficking. I am the only candidate in this race with any experience in the legislature or with public policy. I am also the only candidate who has ever been active in advancing conservative causes, or to have ever helped elect Republican candidates.
  
3. 

What will be your top 3 priorities during your upcoming term?
<b>Answer:</b> My top priorities for the 87 <sup>th</sup> legislature will be to combat the growth of government by passing my bill to limit any growth of state spending to the growth in population plus inflation (thereby limiting government to no more than its current size relative to the economy and Texan's wallets), to work to create a system to lower property taxes, to provide flood control, and to prevent the Democrats from gerrymandering the legislative and congressional maps, so we can ensure a truly representative government.

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:** The biggest uncontrolled expenditure in state government is for a federal program – Medicaid. Medicaid spending grew to \$61.4 billion in the 86<sup>th</sup> legislature and went even higher last year. Unless we get this spending under control, the legislature will not truly have effective control of state government 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:** Ever since the *Edgewood* cases, public education policy has been dominated by school finance. The most important question is not spending, but rather whether our educational system is providing students with the quality education they need to be well-rounded and to succeed in life. We must first focus on what is needed to provide that education and then on how to fund it. Until we focus on what matters, and only then on how to fund it, we are not going to succeed in providing the best education to students or the best value to taxpayers.

6. Please describe what you believe is the proper role for the state government in job creation and intervention in the economy.

**Answer:** The state’s role in the economy is to provide the basic public infrastructure that people couldn’t provide individually (schools, roads, water), then get out of the way and let Texans create their own success.

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:** The members of the legislature can take a more active role in the sunset process by which every agency is examined to determine whether it should continue, and if so, what changes and updates should be made to its operations. Currently, staff almost totally controls the process and members have little say. As a result, the sunset process isn’t very aggressive and hardly ever leads to an actual “sunset” of an agency, or meaningful change to state government operations.

8. What initiatives will you propose to help the voters in your district?

**Answer:** The primary initiative that voters in my district want is the “third reservoir” that was proposed by the Army Corps of Engineers are part of the original 1940 plan that created the Addicks and Barker reservoirs. Although not originally conceived to protect Katy and Cypress (they were designed to slow the flow of flood water to downtown Houston), they are crucial to protecting the tens of thousands of homes in my district from flooding.

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:** The House doesn't work like the Senate. While the speaker can set three or four main priorities, the rest of the legislative agenda emanates from members and the House's committees. Unlike the Lt. Governor, the speaker is elected by the House. Members would rebel against an effort by a speaker to exert top-down control of too much of the House's agenda.
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 have already had discussion with Republican House members about the process for selecting the next speaker. I will work to ensure that we have a speaker who will let the members represent their districts and who won't prevent conservative initiatives from coming to the floor.
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:** Most of the platform wasn't addressed in the legislature. Assuming we maintain a majority in the next election (otherwise *none* of the platform will be addressed), a platform that addresses a small number of core issues is much more likely to serve as the basis of a Republican caucus legislative agenda.
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. I have filed bills to require Houston to make a final decision on areas to be annexed and to give up all extra-territorial jurisdiction, as well as to prevent Houston from exercising any authority over areas to which it does not provide full police, fire, sewer, garbage, and water service. A city exists to provide services to its constituents, not to extract tax money from people to whom it provides no services.

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.