



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
Josh Flynn	Texas House District 138

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 have been active in the Republican Party since the 80s. I have been advocating for conservative principles all of that time not just in word but in deed. Advocating for the Pro-Life movement has been by motivating pursuit, however fighting for 2nd Amendment Rights has also fueled by passion. In 2018 I was elected to the Harris County Department of Education and at my first meeting was elected President and we promptly ended the taxpayer funded lobbying contract worth \$220,000.00 per year. We fought for transparency and won several victories. My biggest disappointment was the Tax Rate fight. I wanted to bring the rate to zero, however, not having the votes I proposed a two-year rollback tax cut of \$3,000,000.00. That proposal went down by a vote of 2 to 5. There were five Republicans on this board of seven. The taxes unfortunately went up by \$800,000.00 by a vote of 4 to 3. The other four Republicans voted for this tax increase. I did not. It was then I realized I needed to be in the state legislature to end this administrative out-of-control bureaucracy.

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: I see education as being the primary focus in this district. I have been involved with public education for decades. Overspending by Administrations have been empowered by agencies like the TEA and TASB. Both of these agencies fight against the elected board of trustees and this needs to be stopped. Flooding abatement needs to be addressed as well. I spoke with the governor last year and he has plans that will be addressing this issue in the next session of the legislature. I plan on helping in those efforts. Bringing accountability to the flood assistance programs, that have been mismanaged, should be the first call of duty. The Rain Tax that was passed many years ago was supposed to help in this effort and, as Harvey proved, has not been administered effectively. The border needs to be secured. We have allocations that can be used to help local sheriffs do their job and we need to support this in the state legislature to continue and expand those efforts. The Texas State Guard should be utilized as well in this effort. Fully funding the State Guard will not only help along the border it will also add necessary assets to local disaster areas. Reducing regulations on small business. I am a licensed tax professional and my primary clientele is non-profit and small business. The biggest inhibitor to maintaining a thriving business in Texas is the large amount of regulation. Texas has the second most licensor requirements in the country. Second only to Louisiana. Surely, we can do better.

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

Answer: Education Reform, Abolish Abortion and Border Security

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 believe in an across-the-board 10% cut in all government programs. If a particular agency can prove that they operate at 90% efficiency, then we can make accommodations for their program. I like user fees, if you don't use the service then you don't pay the fee. Before we look to increase fees, we need to make sure the fees being collected are going to the appropriate program.

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 believe our public education problems have to do with the administrations and that starts with the superintendent. The superintendent is told from the beginning, their primary objective is to increase the budget, and the school boards are told they should give the superintendent everything they want, or they are not a good board member. This philosophy is from the taxpayer funded Texas Association of School Boards (TASB). This organization needs a complete overhaul. One way to empower the individual Board of Trustees is to initiate an Independent Auditor program (not an internal auditor). The auditor would be hired by the Board of Trustees to investigate issues brought up by board members or members of the public. Being hired by the Board would give the auditor autonomy from the superintendent's influence and bring accountability back to public schools.
6. Please describe what you believe is the proper role for the state government in job creation and intervention in the economy.
- Answer:** As I mentioned in an earlier question; government needs to establish a stable regulatory environment. Governing as little possible and allowing the market to dictate the winners and the losers. So much of government regulation has its roots in tilting the scales in favor of a special interest to the detriment of the other side. When a lobbyist comes to my office offering a new law, my question will always be: What law can we eliminate to accomplish what you are wanting to do? It seems like half of the bills presented are simply a means to keep competition from entering their 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:** TxDOT needs to be placed under elected leadership, as well as the Insurance Commission. The lifetime bureaucrats need to be held accountable and the elected leadership needs to be empowered to make tough decisions. Repeal: Residential Rental Locators, Appraisal Management Company Certification, Plumbers, HVAC Licensing, Auctioneer License, Landscape Architect, Irrigation License, Metal Recycling, Athletic Agents, Event Promoter, Vehicle Used Parts Dealer, Dockworkers, Transportation Service Providers. There are so many, it's endless.
8. What initiatives will you propose to help the voters in your district?
- Answer:** Transparency in government spending and empowering the ability citizens to question their government. Flood fund priority allocation mandate.
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 like the open transparency here. It appears though that the Republican Platform Priorities didn't fair to well. Maybe a better idea would be to listen to the voters instead of setting your own agenda after you are elected. Thirty seems to be too many for the legislature to handle and sticking to the five RPT Legislative Priorities would be a better idea. Obviously, the RPT Priorities fell to the wayside because the other "priorities" were too distracting.

- | | |
|----|--|
| 10 | <p>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?</p> <p>Answer: This is the primary reason I want to be on the Rules Committee of the House. We need to change the rules in such a way that would allow more transparency in choosing committee chairs. I believe a House elected five-person board would be a good start in determining who should be committee chairs. The Speaker needs to be determined by caucus and not by pledge cards. Only the most conservative voices should even be considered for this position.</p> |
| 11 | <p>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?</p> <p>Answer: Border Security</p> |
| 12 | <p>Should the city of Houston continue to enjoy extra-territorial jurisdiction, including levying taxes on persons and transactions not in the actual city limits?</p> <p>Answer: No, this is the very definition of tyranny. Only by the vote of the citizen should a governing body have authority.</p> |

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.