



Questions for Candidates for State Senator Office 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
William J. Booher	Texas Senate District 13

Please give your answer to each of the following questions and please include your rationale with each answer. Please be concise and clear.

- Please describe the qualifications and experience that make you the best candidate for the position for which you are running.

Answer:

Texas Senate District 13 is an experiment for the conservative movement. It represents the future of conservatives in America. My belief is that we must have a solid plan that delivers on the promise of America that so many of us have enjoyed. But a plan that is not based on handouts or the perception that we are attempting to Legislate people we hate. For me the solution is simple...it is old fashioned. Self-sustained economic development. What does that mean? It means the state is not here for handouts, but it is here to offer opportunities, it is here to guide people through existing processes, and we are here to work together on common success outcomes.

Across my career in business I have used my conversations and study of real people of all types to guide my perspective on solutions. I know how to build coalitions based on what unites us. My career is a story of people who dislike each other in the marketplace coming together to build strong, beneficial new companies; aligned around a success agenda rooted in those we serve. I have learned to stay focused on outcomes.

My career in global business has offered me a different perspective on getting the people's work done that I hope to bring to the Texas Legislature. We don't personally have to be friends, we don't have to build unholy alliances, but we can work together on achieving common goals. We are blessed to represent our home districts and we owe it to those we work for to make the hard-unpopular things, make decisions, and be held accountable. Our goal is to advance positive outcomes. The first is an economic agenda that allows all Texans to participate in the coming second age of the Texas Miracle. Let's Get 'er done.

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: Most significant for me is that the district has been neglected for years. Texas Senate District 13 contains the economic engines of the Houston region. Most of the new wealth is created in it and old money maintained. The problem is the people who live in the district do not benefit those who do make their money and move on. For me it is most important that we come up with a strategic plan that provides the support to allow the residents of the district to benefit from the wealth creation.

The perception of corruption and in-dealing and back room deals is the greatest threat we face. Picking the wrong candidate for a district ripe to move right would be devastating. And thus, the issues we have to make happen is letting the people of the district benefit from the opportunities of the district.'

My opponent in this race has no vision other than being a part of a Republican Gang. She excitedly touts her relationships with the cocktail party circuit of the party but is incredible thin on her vision for the district and her ties to the district outside of the old school politics of cigar bars and wine caves.

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

Answer: As a Senator I want to focus on developing a consistent set of legislation that enables people without regard to who and where they were born to create economic opportunities in their communities that benefit their families, neighbors, and ultimately contribute to the Texas economic miracle. My goal would be the advancement of these policies and the creation of an ecosystem that allows everyone to participate without favor and take advantage of the tremendous opportunity in Texas. This would be a focus on developing 1) robust Infrastructure allowing for efficient commerce, information exchange, 2) a flexible options based education system that focuses on skills, opportunities and the individual student/community, and 3) reducing the complex senseless regulation that stifles innovation, business, true transformation, and access to capital in a growing ecosystem.

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

Answer:

5. 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 senators; what budget areas need to be cut and what taxes and fees need to be increased in the next legislative session?

Answer: I think there is an enormous amount of waste, theft, and mismanagement in most government organizations. And until we can get those numbers under control, I don't think it is possible to judiciously balance the budget. The first thing in balancing the budget would be an audit to get a hold on what and where we are spending our money. Let's take a look at the largest agencies and programs and do a review of the spending and effectiveness of their programs. As we surface problems, I think we need to build a set of best practices and then apply those practices across the State's budget and accounting. I would venture that once we get unwanted and inefficient spending under control the budget will balance out. That being said I think total efficiency when possible should be our goal...the reformation of our regulation that ties the hands of Administrators should be reviewed. Once we have that underhand, I would work to define what commitments are truly the responsibilities of the State, the County, the Municipality, the Federal Government, or the individual and shift those costs.

6. 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: Education should be based on developing as many options for Texans. Different children have different needs. I am an advocate of a market for education. I am an advocate of letting parents take their allocated dollars and taking them to approved programs that meet universal goals. And I am an advocate of those goals being based on efficiency and outcomes. I think if we balance those things we get costs down and outcomes up.

7. Are there issues related to flood control (i.e., aftermath of hurricane Harvey) that need to be addressed within your district at the state level?

Answer: We have a major problem when it comes to infrastructure in Texas Senate District 13. Our district covers multiple counties and multiple cities. It is without a question that we need to resolve major issues like flood control at the State level. No city, county, or for that matter neighborhood is going to voluntarily develop a plan that might ultimately benefit the majority at their expense.

8. In the last legislative session, Lt. Governor Patrick set a [30-bill priority system](#) for the 2019-20 session. Is such a list a good idea for setting priorities? If so, what items would you add to such a list?

Answer: I think it is absolutely a great idea. Our constituents should be able to quickly access the priorities of the Legislature for a term and where we stand on it. If I had to add anything to the list, it would be a task force to connect the State priorities to funded initiatives at the federal level.

9. 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:** As a strategy consultant this is a question in my 'wheelhouse'. It is an interesting perspective, but what first must be done is the authorization of a committee with a defined set of powers. Once that is completed a real review of ALL the agencies of the State...how they spend money and the outcomes. Once we have that objective analysis done...we need to have the lower half submit their own plans to become more efficient and reformed. Once we get their buy in, we look across the entire structure and rid ourselves of inefficient programs.
10. What changes, improvements or alterations need to be made to the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, or its associated programs with the advent of Obamacare?
- Answer:** I think Obamacare is being dismantled at the Federal level, so I am not certain that the Texas Legislature which has a limited session is the correct body for this question. I do think however, we need to think about a network of low-cost health care clinics to serve the people of our State independent of the Federal Government.
11. What initiatives will you propose to help the voters in your district?
- Answer:** Infrastructure, Education Choice, Regulatory Reform
12. 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:**

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.