



Questions for Candidates for US Congress Offices from the Conservative Coalition of Harris County

Our questionnaire is designed to give the candidate space to indicate their reasons and opinions concerning issues surrounding their races. 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
Jim Noteware	Congressional Rep CD-7

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: Each of the most significant issues confronting Houston and in particular CD-7 – flood mitigation, protection and growth of the petrochemical energy business and health care – are controlled in Washington by Federal law, Federal budgets and Federal administration. Thus, CD-7 needs a Congressman that can hit the ground running from Day 1 and provide the stand-up leadership to achieve the District’s priorities. I am the only candidate that has the requisite leadership experience:

- Business Leadership – For ten years I ran a very large organization; satisfied customers, met payroll, personally signed for financial guarantee, etc. as CEO of Maxxam Property Companies, nation-wide real estate developer and investor; a Fortune 500 company.
- Public Leadership – I was invited by two big City Mayors to turn around and then lead large troubled government agencies: the National Capital Revitalization Corporation (NCRC) in Washington, DC and the Housing & Community Development Department of Houston, Texas.
- International Professional Experience – I served as National Director of Real Estate Advisory Services for Price Waterhouse from its New York headquarters, overseeing business globally.
- Community Leadership – I served as board member of Houston’s Coalition for the Homeless, Houston Housing Finance Corporation, and the Houston Business Development Council.
- Policy Leadership – I have served as Director and Executive for numerous organizations including the Urban Land Institute (Houston), Real Estate Roundtable (Washington) and World Presidents Organization (Globally).
- Political leadership – I have served as taxpayer advocate as Op-Ed Contributor to the Houston Business Journal, advised the campaigns of several high ranking political leaders, and successfully sued the City of Houston for deceptive ballot language in the election that authorized \$1billion of GO bonds.
- Family Leadership – I have been married 43 years to Dr. Sylvia Maud, dentist and raised four adult children with successful families and careers.

No other candidate in this race has the breadth, depth and continuous success of my collective experience.

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: The three most significant issues in this election for CD-7 are:

- Flood Mitigation – to keep us safe from future flooding, by making Washington’s bureaucracies, including especially the US Army Corps of Engineers, work for us.
- Growth of the Energy Industry – to enhance the production and export of fossil fuels, including particularly LNG from the Texas Gulf Coast.
- Health Care – to develop and promote market-based alternatives to the ACA that will encourage competition, innovation and cost reduction – such as sale of insurance across state lines, and transparency in billing procedures.

Houston’s energy and health care industries are under assault from the Democratic Congressional Leadership and the Presidential Candidates with “The Green New Deal” and “Medicare for All.”

My collective business and public experience that directly addresses these priorities – as presented in the answer to the previous question differentiates me from the other candidates, particularly with respect to my leadership nationally and globally.

3. What will be your top 2 or 3 priorities during this upcoming term?

Answer: The US faces three long-term risks: 1) public deficits and accumulated debt, especially at the Federal level; 2) erosion of the rule of law, particularly regarding immigration; and 3) break-down of our major institutions, especially Congress.

In addition to addressing the flood, energy and health care issues noted in the answers to the two previous questions, my legislative priorities will be: 1) Federal balanced budget amendment; 2) comprehensive immigration reform – stopping illegal immigration and enhancing LEGAL immigration; and 3) reforming Congress itself, through aligning the interests of the Federal government with its citizens; leading by example (beginning with Republican-led reform of the ACA); and holding government institutions, leaders and programs accountable for their results.

4. Polls indicate that faith/trust in the US Congress is very low. What can be done to restore the public's faith/trust in the US Congress?

Answer: I grew up Republican in Northern California. President Reagan's eight years as Governor were my four years in high school and four years in college. Mr. Reagan's lasting legacy was his combined:

- Personal style – to lead by example, tell the truth, operate transparently, and to disagree (as inevitable in politics) without being disagreeable. He was always willing to listen to others' perspectives and opinions (often saying that he learned from them) and also willing to compromise if and when he had achieved his own objectives as well.
- Consistent adherence to his basic values – peace through strength, based upon a strong economy leading to strong defense, leadership by appointment of the best people with appropriate delegation (James Baker, George Schultz, Ed Meese, etc.).

My goal in Congress will be to put President Reagan's behavior back into practice – to listen before talking, to respect others' positions, to reduce the rhetoric and volume, to do homework based on facts before making decisions – and most of all, injecting humor back into our political discourse.

I come to this conclusion regarding "lead by example" behavior based on my own continuous leadership experience in both the public and private sectors. In each case, my appointments were subject to confirmation by the organizations' Boards of Directors, and required strict compliance with investors' and regulators' requirements. The solutions for turn-around and then growth required understanding of complex existing and anticipated future conditions and the support of numerous constituencies.

For instance, in the case of Mayor Tony Williams's appointment of me to head the NCRC in DC, I had to receive confirmation from the "W" White House. I worked with numerous community groups throughout the underserved minority neighborhoods in Washington, and achieved great success in creating new – and lasting – value by initiating new projects to clean up neighborhoods that provided new economic development (Anacostia Riverfront, Washington Navy Yard, Mount Vernon Triangle, etc., etc.) and enhanced social services such as schools, health facilities, etc. My board was composed of five Democrats and Four Republicans, and my challenge was to conceive new strategies and forge new solutions that, nearly always, resulted in unanimous decisions to proceed. Fifteen years later, the results are readily visible and understandable!

5. Please describe what you believe is the proper role for the federal government in job creation and intervention in the economy. What budget items need to be cut (i.e. social programs) and what taxes and fees need to be increased?

Answer: The best thing that the Federal Government can do to stimulate job creation is to:

- Protect the rule of law so that all participants in the economy can be certain in contracts and confident of equal treatment
- Ensure a stable economy through equitable taxation and fiscally disciplined spending.
- Create and enforce regulations that “keep us safe” without becoming burdensome and are applied equitably.
- Encourage economic growth and opportunity for all businesses and citizens.

Government agencies and programs that should be cut include:

- Total elimination of the US Department of Education
- Reduction in key programs of many cabinet agencies, such as:
 - . Commerce (Export – Import Bank)
 - . Transportation (Urban Development Mass Transit grants)
 - . HUD (various housing programs)
 - . EPA (reduce regulations that stifle economic growth as their objective)
 - . Labor (reduce NLRB regulations that protect public unions; promote right to work)
 - . Agriculture (reduce food stamps, eliminate ethanol and crop subsidies)
 - . Interior (reduce public land acquisition and sell some inventory of public lands)

No taxes and fees should be raised. However, the government should encourage growth of the tax base (the productive economy) through accelerated energy exploration and oil and gas exports, as well as bringing manufacturing back to the US, and changing the tax laws to repatriate overseas profits.

6. Should the federal government finance and build the border wall with Mexico?

Answer: Yes, extending physical barriers on the US-Mexico border such as “building the wall” are an important first step in securing the border. But, they are only the first step in both reforming our immigration laws and restoring our national security. Other elements of border protection must include surveillance and drones and enforcement of our existing laws (such as supervision of overstay of visas and better data processing of entrants through the border, appointment of more immigration and asylum judges to more quickly process immigrants seeking asylum and entry for economic purposes).

7. Do you support defunding “Sanctuary Cities”? Should immigration laws be reformed?

Answer: Yes, NO Federal funds (housing, infrastructure, food stamps, criminal justice, etc.) should be distributed to Sanctuary cities or States.

And yes, immigration laws must be reformed, as follows:

The first step for comprehensive immigration reform will be to enforce existing laws, including those for employer responsibility for e-verify; not providing social services and other privileges (drivers’ licenses) for illegal aliens; etc., and denying all Federal funds to “Sanctuary” Cities and States.

The second step must be to create new programs that reflect our economic and social realities, such as guest worker programs, and permanent residence (NOT citizenship) for some illegal aliens that have been tax-paying with no criminal records.

The third step will be to continue current efforts to change the current immigration system from “family” linkages to economic need and qualifications. We should enhance immigration of people who are financially self-sufficient and have skills required by our economic system and society.

8. What changes should be made to the Affordable Health Care Act (Obamacare), and in general, to the US healthcare system by the Federal government?

Answer: The ACA, popularly known as “Obama-Care” was a legislative blunder (Nancy Pelosi: “ we must pass it learn what’s in it”) with many components forced on the new Obama Administration by the rapacious insurance and pharmaceutical industries. The “individual mandates” have been controversial if not illegal, and many unanswered questions remain – such as coverage for pre-existing conditions. Since its passage in late 2009 (by 100% partisan votes!) and “implementation” in 2010, health care costs have rising in the US from 14% to 18% of GDP. Perhaps the best part of Obama-Care is that it applies to only 10% of the market place, after the 50% of employer provided insurance and the 40% of direct government programs noted above.

This situation represents a perfect opportunity for conservatives to lead by example and propose alternatives to the ACA – proposals that focus on market based solutions that stimulate competition and innovation. I offer several examples – permit and encourage sale of insurance across state lines, require full transparency in pricing and prohibit surprise-billing by providers; expand the use of Health Savings Accounts to better balance the tax equity between tax-deductible premiums by employers and after-tax premium payments by individuals in the ACA exchanges. The new initiative of the Texas Medical Center called TMC-X is a perfect example of the focus on new medical innovation – in surgical techniques, therapy, devices, pharmaceuticals, etc., etc.

The reforms created by these proposals will have the compounding benefits of gradually changing the economics of the other 50% + 40% of the health care market as well, with the ultimate objective of driving down costs.

9. Are any additional federal actions needed to change or enhance Federal gun laws?

Answer: None, for several reasons:

- First, if I thought that restricting gun ownership would reduce gun violence, I might be willing to consider further restrictions. But, the evidence clearly shows: “if guns are outlawed, only outlaws will have guns.” In legal terms, this means that the US cities that have the toughest gun regulations have the highest level of gun related murders and violence – look at Chicago and Baltimore as examples.
- Second, as a society, with multiple levels of government and a fractured Federal system of law enforcement (neighboring states and city-suburb proximity), we do not adequately and consistently enforce the laws we now have (background checks for purchases at gun show, etc.). So, before I would consider legislation to create new restrictions, I would want to see evidence of effective enforcement of existing laws.
- Third, gun ownership is NOT the problem, gun possession by the wrong people is. For example, I could buy a gun because I have a clean record – no problem there. But, my gun could be stolen or I could sell it in the after-market or give it to someone who could abuse it. There is simply no way, other than a Federal inventory – and verification -- of gun ownership. This would be impractical and unconstitutional.

Fourth, while gun control laws are highly controversial, nearly all observers agree that mass violence is related to mental illness and routine violence is caused by social and demographic factors. I see very little practical initiative to either address social ills or mental illness or to enforce existing gun laws. Thus, I conclude that the proposals for further gun restriction are both a rush to create a politically appealing but ineffective “solution,” or are an effort to exert government control over the very citizens it represents.

This brings me to my defense of the Second Amendment – I believe that the Founding Fathers created the second amendment that grants “the right to bear arms” because they knew that citizens did not trust their government. 250 years later, citizens still do not trust their government. And, recent performance indicates that government is not doing much to re-establish that trust. This credibility gap is one of the reasons I have decided to run for Congress.

10. What state and local issues in your district will you address at the Federal level if you are elected?

Answer: As answered in question #2, CD-7's three principal issues – flood mitigation, growth in energy, particularly LNG exports, and health care reform of the ACA-- are all controlled in Washington, with a fourth, immigration. So, these four issues are also national in scope.

- Flood mitigation -- make Washington's budget and bureaucracies, including the Corps of Engineers, work for Houston.
- Energy -- enhance production and export of fossil fuels, especially Texas LNG
- Health Care – develop and promote market-based alternatives to the ACA, including ability to purchase coverage across state lines.
- Immigration – Comprehensively reform the nation' immigration laws as presented in detail in the answer to question #7.

I commit to address these issues at the Federal level if elected.

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.