



Questions for Candidates for Texas Railroad Commissioner Conservative Coalition of Harris County

Our questionnaire is for candidates 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.

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| Candidate Name | Position for which Candidate is Running |
| James “Jim” Wright | Texas Railroad Commission |

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

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| 1. | Please describe the qualifications and experience that make you the best candidate for position for which you are running. |
| | Answer: Rancher and business owner with four businesses related to the oil and gas industry, specifically in environmental cleanup services. At a young age I began working in a Hazardous Waste Disposal facility which is where I began my career in the environmental services industry. Additionally I have served on various boards including CASA of the Coastal Bend and the Robstown Area Development Commission. |

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: 1. Making the TRC more responsive. Some of the most significant issues facing the Railroad Commission are a lack of transparency, communication and utilizing the best technology to get more input from both citizens and stakeholders. Texas citizens need more and better opportunities to have input into how TRC decisions impact them and in turn, need to be educated, on how TRC decisions impact jobs and our economy.

2. Border Security. . I am a pro-life conservative who believes that strong border security is essential to the safety of our families, the nation and to our state. It is particularly important for the oil and gas industry because our pipeline corridors are being used by smugglers who bring in illegals and traffic in human misery. Without strong border security our oil and gas industry is also vulnerable to those who would do us harm. In today’s world, there are terrorist organizations who would use Texas borders as a crossing to come into the U.S. and Texas industry, ports and military facilities could be targets. Additionally, I have first-hand knowledge of how border security effects Texas families. My wife, Sherry, is a quadriplegic, following an accident when a car full of illegals ran a stop sign and hit her jeep. Except for the grace of God, and a neighbor who found her, I would be without the love of my life. I say that not for sympathy, because neither of us want that, but because it relates to reasons that every Texan should demand stronger border security to protect our economy and our families.

3. Ending Pay-to-Play Politics. There have been numerous instances where special interest money has played a role in decision making at the Railroad Commission. This must stop. Everyone deserves a fair hearing, but decisions must be based on what is right, not how much money has been donated to a political campaign.

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

Answer: 1. Continue the mission of the agency by assisting in development of common-sense policies that help regulate industry and create jobs. 2. Stop federal overreach by the EPA and federal bureaucracies. 3.Improve the agency’s lack of transparency and improve communication.

4. What changes can be made to the Railroad Commissioner offices to improve productivity, reduce waste and increase efficiencies?

Answer: 1. Develop an open door policy, including the development of web based technology, for better communication with the general population and with stakeholders. 2. Focus on market efforts to ensure sustainability other competitive markets. 3. Promulgation of stronger rules focusing on things such as economical infrastructure, placement ease, 100 percent natural gas utilization and recovered water re-uses. 4.Life cycle analysis and development to insure future generations are reliant on best environmental management practices by the industry and industries reliance on an agency focusing on economic gain for the sector it controls. 4. Evaluate the cost, pros and cons of changing the agency name to be more reflective of the work it does.

5. What issues need to be addressed by the Railroad Commissioner with increased restrictions by the Federal Government (EPA, etc.) on the oil and gas industry in Texas?
- Answer:** We need Texas Railroad Commissioners who will stand up to the EPA and let them know that Texas is capable of regulating Texas industry. While we have to work with the federal government, and we need to protect our environment and our land resources, we should not let our state regulatory agency, or our producers be bullied by bureaucrats who do not have our interest at heart. The oil and gas sector is under continuing scrutiny over air and water quality, offshore regulation and management of chemicals. Because of that oil and gas exploration has suffered with rising costs for development, drilling and operating permits. These permits are at the state level, but the commission needs to ensure that the feds do not overstep their authority and try to tack on unneeded regulations that affect state permitting and cause the cost of doing business to rise to unacceptable levels.
6. With the recent oil price downturn, what sort of ideas or policy changes do you think are necessary to keep producers active in drilling and producing oil and gas to help the Texas economy and maintain state oil & gas tax revenues?
- Answer:** The price of oil is going to up and down depending on the world political status. We should continue to promote oil and gas drilling, keep the EPA out of our hair, and let Texas regulators regulate Texas. Things are changing, the Port of Corpus Christi is now the number one oil exporter in the country. The massive pipelines being built will need strong infrastructure to take care of the crude oil coming out of the Permian Basin in West Texas and markets in southeastern New Mexico. The Commission must ensure that the drilling is being done correctly, that rules are being followed, and that burdensome regulations don't exist. This includes stronger rules focusing on economical infrastructure, placement ease, natural gas utilization and recovered water reuses, which is one of my top priorities...
7. What sort of actions and policy should be addressed by the Railroad Commission in the area of hydraulic fracture stimulation of oil and gas wells?
- Answer:** Hydraulic fracturing has been an environmentally safe process in Texas for about 60 years. To ensure that continues, the Railroad Commission in 2012 implemented the Hydraulic Fracturing Disclosure Rule which dictates what must be disclosed on chemical ingredients used in hydraulic fracturing fluids. While there are numerous rules in place to protect ground water in this process including well construction requirements by the TRC and TCEQ rules related to water rights, they have not always been effective. The Railroad Commission must work to ensure the safety of hydraulic fracture stimulation for the public and protect the rights of landowners on surface and ground water. Additionally, more research needs to occur to help determine any other detrimental effects, and if proven, find solutions to solve those issues.

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.