



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.

Candidate Name	Position for which Candidate is Running
Ryan Sitton	Railroad Commissioner

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 understand the Railroad Commission’s mission and functions extremely well. I have spent my career in oil and gas production, from engineer to company founder and CEO. I am a graduate of Texas A&M’s College of Engineering with a degree in mechanical engineering, and the first engineer to serve on the Railroad Commission in over 50 years. Additionally, I have served on the Railroad Commission since being elected to the office in 2014.

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: Misinformation regarding the oil and gas industry and the Commission’s regulatory role is our most significant challenge. The fact is, affordable and reliable energy has lifted billions of people out of poverty. It powers our jobs and our lives, from the smart phones in our hands to the lights and A/C in our offices. At the same time, US emissions are decreasing faster than any other country thanks to the market-driven switch to natural gas to generate electricity. I have made it a priority to speak out on behalf of the good that energy brings to our lives, to explain the Railroad Commission’s role, and detail how market forces are reducing our emissions in the United States faster than any other country.

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

Answer: Keeping energy affordable and reliable for all Texans while producing it as cleanly and safely as possible is my priority. Continuing to modernize the Railroad Commission and continuing our efforts to make it more transparent to Texans are additional priorities I have led at the agency over the past term.

4. What changes can be made to the Railroad Commissioner offices to improve productivity, reduce waste and increase efficiencies?
- Answer:** The number one change we should make is to change the Railroad Commission's name to better reflect its responsibilities and mission. It has nothing to do with trains. The RRC regulates oil and gas production, but its current name causes confusion. Additionally, we are working to modernize the agency's information technology so it can be more responsive and transparent.
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 policy from Washington that lets Texas lead when it comes to oil and gas production. We did not have that under President Obama, but we do have it under President Trump. The results speak for themselves. Texas is now producing about 5 million barrels of oil per day and is the world's third largest oil and gas producer. The United States is now the world's largest oil and gas producer and is a net oil exporter for the first time in decades. Texans are paying less at the pump than we were just a few years ago. Our economy is thriving. Texas energy provides a strong foundation for sustainable economic growth.
- Any time the federal government attempts to expand its role, whether by regulatory interpretation, executive order, or congressional action, the railroad commissioner must be aggressive in articulating to the public why Texas, and the RRC, are best suited to regulate. Our track record of knowledge, rules, and enforcement has produced a VERY healthy balance of industry growth, environmental protection, and conservation. And... the state has done this with a fraction of the cost and bureaucracy that the Federal government operates with. When our citizens understand that the Texas Railroad Commission ensures the best access to affordable, reliable, responsible energy, then they will not tolerate federal overreach. In addition, we need to be well positioned to assist the Attorney General in prosecuting cases against federal overreach by ensuring our systems, process, and information are documented and proven.
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:** We must continue to increase takeaway capacity to move more natural gas to market. This will help Texas producers meet the demands of our own homes and businesses and the demand from emerging overseas markets such as China, India and Eastern Europe.
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, or fracking, has been around for 50 years. It is proven to be a safe and effective way to produce oil and gas. At the same time, in very limited circumstances fracking has been shown to play a role in seismic activity. As Railroad Commissioner I will continue to base my decisions on sound science and data, not political hysteria.

Ryan Sitton

Ryan Sitton is an inventor, engineer, entrepreneur and a public servant. Ryan and his wife Jennifer built their business, PinnacleART, from the ground up in 2006 and have grown it to more than 900 employees and revenue over \$100 million. They are also very active philanthropists in their community. Ryan was born in Texas. Both of his parents were schoolteachers.

Ryan was elected Texas Railroad Commissioner in 2014. The Railroad Commission has nothing to do with trains - it regulates the strong and vital energy development sector in the Lone Star State. Ryan is an energy expert and is the first engineer elected to the Commission in over 50 years and brings his real-world leadership and expertise to every aspect of the agency's operations. Ryan is the youngest ever Distinguished Graduate of Texas A&M University, and the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce named PinnacleART its Business of the Year in 2019.

Endorsing Ryan Sitton for re-election to the Railroad Commission of Texas:

- **Gov. Greg Abbott**
- **Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick**
- **Sen. John Cornyn**
- **Sen. Ted Cruz**
- **Empower Texans**
- **Patriot Texas**
- **Williamson County Republican Leadership**
- **Ronald Reagan Conservative Club of Texas**
- **Savannah Sentinels (Denton County)**
- **Warren Lee Austerman, Chairman, Bexar Co Precinct 4198**
- **True Texas Project**
- **United Republicans of Harris County**
- **Texas Alliance for Life PAC**

Ryan Sitton recent op-eds:

RealClearEnergy: [Why Unlocking More Oil and Gas is Good for Every American - and the Environment](#)

PJ Media: [Equal, Not the Same: Identity Politics is Toxic to Our Republic](#)

PJ Media: [It's Time to Celebrate American Energy Independence](#)

Houston Chronicle: [Who Gets the Green in the Green New Deal?](#)

The Washington Times: [The Green New Deal Would Replace Freedom of Choice](#)

Ryan Sitton's Energy Market Outlook:

https://issuu.com/txrrc/docs/2019_sitton_energy_market_outlook_?e=22468551/70381247



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