



Questions for Candidates for County Commissioner from the 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
Jerry Mouton	Harris County Commissioner Pct 2

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 makes you the best candidate in your political race.
Answer: 30 plus years business owner, Elected Deer Park City Council 2011, Elected Deer Park Mayor 2013 – present.

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: Public Safety, Investing in Infrastructure, Financial Management.

3.

What will be your top 2 or 3 priorities during this upcoming term?
Answer: 1) working with Commissioner Ramsey & Cagle to fire/reduce the size of Harris County government. Address public safety issues by allocating needed resources the Constables and Sherriff officers. Fighting to make essential road and bridge projects and improvements happen, as well as putting proper flood mitigation plans in place.

4.

What are the primary functions that can be improved within the Commissioner Precinct office? What sort of things can be done to improve relations, communication and services with the public?
Answer: As Mayor of Deer Park, the City Council and I addressed priorities in a non-partisan fashion, Public safety, infrastructure, and financial management should not be political playing chips and can be addressed through improved relations and communication by working together to find solutions to the issues that are before us.

5. With ever increasing advances in computer technology, is the Harris County Central Technology Services office well prepared for increasing population trends in Harris County? If not, what are your strategies to improve the office for the future?
- Answer:** No I do not believe Harris County is prepared for the increased population trends. But with that said it's a moving target that will require all of us working together to increase efficiencies regarding how county government provides services. As Mayor, I have invested in and upgraded our IT department and infrastructure to be able to provide services in an efficient manner. As Commissioner keeping up with the advancements of technology and how we can improve services while lowering the burden on the tax payers will be a top priority.
6. After several years of rising property values and increasing general revenues, are there certain categories within the General Fund where making budget cuts make sense (by better efficiencies)? If so, what will be your strategy to lower taxes and/or tax rates in Harris County?
- Answer:** Yes; lowering the size of government growth is the largest challenge. The cost of labor grows every day, so finding ways to improve services with a higher level of management as well as improved efficiencies is the best way to address rising property values/tax revenue increases. It can be done, we just have to control the growth of county government.
7. Are the Law Enforcement agencies adequately staffed and funded to handle the increasing population growth within your Precinct in Harris County?
- Answer:** No, the law enforcement is not adequately staffed or funded to keep up with the growth. This should be a top priority of Commissioner's Court. There are industry standards that can be used to gauge where we are at and where it needs to be, while at the same time managing the budget impact. We can and must do better. In Deer Park our crime rate in the last 5 years has gone down 15% because we have focused on how to effectively use resources to address public safety. This will be a top priority of mine as Commissioner.
8. Harris County Commissioner's Court handles an enormous budget every year. What skills and experience do you have that makes you the best person to elect for the County Commissioner of your Precinct?
- Answer:** My experience as a business owner and Mayor in Deer Park during the last nine years has given me the skills and knowledge to properly serve Precinct 2 constituents. Its one thing to talk about what one as a candidate would do, but it's another thing to say this is what I am actually, currently. I know I can improve the quality of life of those in in Precinct 2 because I've already done It in the city of Deer Park. I am proud to say that in the last 10 years Deer Parks overall budget has grown at approximately 2.9 percent. We have maintained an AAA rating for the last 7 years as one of only 33 cities in Texas out of over 1200 cities. This real-world experience has prepared me with the skills to handles the budget issues we have facing Harris County.

9. Should any changes be made to Harris County Departments (Infrastructure, Services, Law Enforcement, Justice, etc.) to improve productivity, reduce waste and increase efficiency? Are there departments that can be combined or eliminated?
- Answer:** Yes; there are changes that can be made to some aspect to all of the above, but we need to start first by undoing many of the reorganization concepts the current Democrat majority is putting into place. Initially, there would be many positions we need to eliminate as the largest cost in any organization is labor. Unfortunately, the Democrats have taken advantage of their roles and granted pet projects, departments and positions to many of their cronies within the county government. There needs to be a justification of departments based upon how does that department provide and or deliver what most impacts the mission of the county.
10. What sort of future programs or services will you create or offer within your Precinct in the upcoming term?
- Answer:** In any aspect of future needs, we don't always know what we will need but it still demands we as elected officials prepare and invest into the future. As we grow regionally, we will need to stay focused upon the core fundamentals of Harris County services, Public Safety, infrastructure, and financial management. With that said, any aspect of future programs or services I would work to create or offer would be in the context of how do we do what we need as core services for the future generations better.
11. Harris County property values have substantially jumped in value over the last five years. What recommendations do you have that will rollback county taxes for the average citizen in your Precinct?
- Answer:** Based upon the current structures it can be done with homestead exemptions, senior exemptions as well as rolling back tax rates while managing the cost side of the services. All of the above needs to be used to control the out of control property value increases we are seeing.
12. Are there any areas where the State and County need to improve communication to enhance tax revenue distribution, reduce waste, or the duplication of efforts? Are there tax functions that are currently done at the State level that would be more efficient at the County level?
- Answer:** I am a business owner with a master's degree in Business administration. In any aspect of revenues when it's all said and done the tax payers still pay the revenue that is generated. So in reality we need to focus on reduction of waste as well as working with the state to improve how every level of government could be accountable or more efficient in how it improves the quality of life for the constituents.

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.