



Questions for Candidates for County Judge 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
Alexandra Del Moral Mealer	Harris County Judge

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.
	<p>Answer: I am a combat veteran (I graduated West Point and served in the Army bomb squad). I spent the last 6 years working in oil & gas finance (I have a business and law degree from Harvard). My skills include emergency management and financial analysis</p>

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).
	<p>Answer: When I launched my campaign this past November, I <u>published a piece in the Houston Chronicle</u> to raise the alarm regarding the utter lawlessness plaguing our County. Instead of taking action, our progressive leadership stood back and continued to collect data to “evaluate” the root causes for the rise of crime. As a result, we are now quantifiably the Murder Capital of the U.S. with <u>more homicides than Chicago, NYC and LA.</u></p> <p>We don’t need to keep collecting data to know that it’s not Harvey, it’s not COVID – it’s <u>Lina Hidalgo’s prioritization of bail reform</u> in the name of justice for violent offenders. Once elected, I will focus on justice for the victims. She wants to re-imagine the criminal justice system by investing in “Holistic Alternative Responder Teams” and studies on gun violence—I believe in good old-fashioned boots on the ground. We simply need MORE LAW ENFORCEMENT in our communities, NOT LESS.</p>

3.	What will be your top 2 or 3 priorities during this upcoming term?
	<p>Answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● BACK THE BLUE AND LOCK UP VIOLENT CRIMINALS ● LOWER TAXES & STOP WASTEFUL SPENDING ● SECURE OUR ELECTIONS ● END MASK/VACCINE MANDATES & RESTORE DECISION-MAKING TO PARENTS, CHURCHES AND BUSINESSES
4.	What are the primary functions that can be improved within the Commissioners Court? What sort of things can be done to improve relations, communication, and services with the public?
	<p>Answer: Actual leadership and transparency. Leaders don't call a funeral a "county event" like it is a spectacle. I also published an Op-Ed on the financial health of the County and in response, the County pulled down the data - that is not transparency. Link to my Op-Eds: https://alexandranealer.com/news/</p>
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?
	<p>Answer: I do not think Harris County's population is increasing (see link), and with the increase in crime and underinvestment in flood infrastructure, I am very concerned that the population will begin to shrink, putting an even greater tax burden on the residents of the County</p> <p>https://www.harriscountytexas.gov/Financial-Transparency/Traditional-Finances</p>
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?
	<p>Answer: Judge Hidalgo builds her budget by thinking of her ideal wish list of pet projects and then figures out how much money to take from the community, even if it means raising taxes by more than 8% in one year or depleting the County's "rainy day" funds. I believe the County budget should be constrained by population growth and inflation. Amidst inflation, rising gas prices and job losses due to unnecessary COVID-19 lockdowns, do you really want someone running the County who constantly demands more of your money? Harris County does not have a revenue problem, it has a WASTEFUL SPENDING problem. The general fund should be composed almost entirely of expenditures related to the criminal justice systems (law enforcement, prosecutors) and infrastructure (roads, etc.). Right now, funding is prioritized on social re-engineering instead of core County services.</p>

7.	Are the Law Enforcement agencies adequately staffed and funded to handle the increasing population growth within your Precinct in Harris County?
	Answer: Harris County is in a state of crisis and the epidemic of violent crime that is crippling our County is rooted in the failed policies of Judge Lina Hidalgo and the Democrats on the Commissioners Court, who together, have systematically destroyed our criminal justice systems by defunding law enforcement effectively creating a revolving door at the courthouse.
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: I spent the last 6 years working in oil & gas finance (I have an MBA and law degree from Harvard). My skills include comprehensive risk assessment and management of multi-billion-dollar budgets.
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: Talk is cheap, as the County Executive, your funding decisions reflect your priorities, and Judge Hidalgo’s priorities are not the priorities of our community. I will FULLY FUND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM by increasing the number of District Attorneys, Sheriff Deputies, and Constable Deputies that are desperately needed to tackle the unprecedented crime epidemic in Harris County..
10.	What sort of future programs or services will you create or offer within your role as County Judge in the upcoming term?
	Answer: I am supportive of mobile spay / neuter programs to go into neighborhoods as this is a health issue. I also plan to dedicate law enforcement resources to remove homeless encampments. Outside of that, if the program wasn’t there before Lina, it is a high bar for it to stay. I do not believe that the County should be tackling climate change. Essentially, every program listed under her accomplishments should be defunded / dissolved: https://cjo.harriscountytexas.gov/Key-Accomplishments-Marching-Towards-the-Future
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: Judge Hidalgo builds her budget by thinking of her ideal wish list of pet projects and then figures out how much money to take from the community, even if it means raising taxes by more than 8% in one year or depleting the County’s “rainy day” funds. I believe the County budget should be constrained by population growth and inflation. Detailed analysis here: https://alexandranealer.com/harris-county-heading-towards-the-uncharted-waters-of-financial-distress/

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?
	<p>Answer: More of the duplication occurs within the City / County relationship with the unincorporated County subsidizing City of Houston residents</p>

1 Does the County emergency services have adequate resources to handle an emergency
3 such as hurricane, grid failure, deadly pandemic, or epic flooding? What sort of strategy would you envision as County Judge to get Harris County through such an event?

Answer: NO.

Harris County is the 3rd largest county in the country in terms of population and GDP. Through the leadership of the previous Republican-led Commissioner’s Court, the historic 2018 Flood Control Bond Election was passed overwhelmingly. That was a great start, but much remains to be done.

Since 2019, the current Democrat-led Court has done nothing to reduce flooding. They did appoint a Task Force made up of mostly of leftist activists, who have only managed to meet 7 times in the last 17 months and accomplished absolutely nothing. Do we really expect flooding to be solved by a group who can’t even organize enough to have meetings?

This same Court has managed to fire or run off a large portion of the previous County department leaders with years of valuable experience while at the same time growing the size of County government by creating at least six new departments, all staffed by the cronies and loyalists. We just hired a Flood Control Director after six months of a vacancy and the County Engineers position is still open.

What will I do?

As County Judge, I will use the power and weight of Harris County to get the State and Federal Delegations to unite on funding flood damage reduction projects. I will meet with all State representatives and State senators in Harris County to seek funding from the Texas Flood Infrastructure Fund (~\$400MM of funding available). There are several Congressmen that have still not met with the Flood Control District – without a united delegation, Harris County will continue to lose out on State and Federal funding sources that are needed to alleviate Houston’s flooding. These funding sources are critical in regards to funding the projects identified under the 2018 Flood Control Bond and it is critically important in regard to funding the Buffalo Bayou tunnel system that is estimated to cost \$5-6Bn and will require 25-50% funding from State/Local funding sources. Both these programs are necessary to reduce Harris County’s flood risk.

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.