



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
Wayne Christian	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.

1. Please describe the qualifications and experience that make you the best candidate in your political race.

Answer: I have had five years of on-the-job training as a commissioner, with two terms serving as chairman of the commission. It is a rare honor for a commissioner to be elected by their peers twice in one term to serve as Chairman. In addition to my duties on the Commission, I was also appointed by Governor Abbott to serve as the Official Representative of Texas to the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC). In this role, I work with my counterparts in other states to fight for state rights and have authored/passed resolutions against the Green New Deal, Clean Future Act, and other anti-oil and gas initiatives by the Biden Administration.

In addition to this direct experience, I have spent my life fighting for conservative causes and making a living as a successful businessman, creating jobs and serving my community.

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: In 2018, the United States surpassed Saudi Arabia and Russia to become the top producer of oil and gas in the world making us energy secure for the first time in decades. The COVID-19 demand drop crippled the industry, resulting in record bankruptcies. Furthermore, the hostile regulatory environment from the Biden Administration has made it difficult for O&G companies to bounce back. I have and will continue to use all tools at my disposal to fight back against these Biden efforts from joining lawsuits with the Attorney General to authoring and passing resolutions at IOGCC with my fellow regulators.

Experience is the biggest difference between my opponents and I. I have served on the Railroad Commission for almost five years and have stabilized staffing levels for the first time in a decade - leading to reduced permitting times and streamlined inspections. Under current leadership, Texas has gradually reduced waste and flaring of natural gas from 2.38% in January 2019 to 0.72% in January 2021 and it has continued to go down since.

Another difference is my dedication to fighting back against the subsidization of unreliable energy. Since being elected I have written countless editorials and letters to legislators, congressmen, and other statewide elected officials in an effort to eliminate the preferential treatment of wind and solar. As the Official Representative to the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission, I have led this effort nationally with other state regulators as well. The only way we will be able to longterm make our energy grid more reliable is stop picking winners and losers and eliminate subsidies and preferential treatment for wind and solar so that companies are incentivized to build more reliable natural gas, coal, and nuclear generation.

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

Answer:

Top Three Internal Priorities: 1) Continue to modernize agency to increase efficiencies, speed up permitting, and decrease costs 2) Continue to work with operators to identify regulatory issues and red tape to cut 3) Fight back against federal overreach

Top Three External Priorities: 1) Continue to travel the state speaking truth to fight back against radical leftist that are telling the public oil and gas is going to end the world 2) Continue advocating to the legislature and congress to eliminate all subsidies for energy and let the free market decide the future of energy 3) Fight back against the ESG movement which seeks to distort free markets to cut off financing for the oil and gas industry

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

Answer: Since joining the RRC we have modernized our IT systems and processes to decrease costs, permitting times, and improve efficiency. The Commission has created and is testing a machine-learning algorithm that will increase speed and reduce human error in the processing of permits and created online support systems to reduce backlog and processing times.

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: On day one, President Biden canceled the Keystone XL Pipeline making thousands of American workers unemployed during the pandemic and ensured that our country would be more dependent on foreign oil. Instead of supporting domestic producers of oil and gas, Biden has repeatedly asked OPEC to increase production from dirtier producers in Russia and the Middle East and even tapped our emergency reserves. I will continue to utilize my position on the Steering Committee of the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission to author joint resolutions from oil producing states pushing back against federal overreach. The Railroad Commission as an agency will continue to join the attorney general in filing lawsuits against the Biden Administration's overreach.

6. With the oil price downturn last year, 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: When COVID-19 sunk oil prices, there were many advocating for the Railroad Commission to impose state-mandated caps on production. Instead, I created a private sector task force to identify regulatory relief as an alternative to one-size-fits-all mandates from the state. As a result of implementing these suggestions and sticking to conservative, free market principles, WTI Crude went from an all-time low of -\$37 a barrel (4/20/20) to \$32 a barrel within a month. I wrote an editorial on my decision, you can read here: <http://freepdfhosting.com/8cf8e51555.pdf>

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: I support hydraulic fracturing. I am not aware of any regulations by the Railroad Commission that would prohibit an operator for fracturing a well. We are always looking for opportunities to cut red tape and ensure we are not getting in the way. Our job is to reign in bad actors and ensure producers in the free market are able to produce as much of our natural resources under the ground as possible to benefit our state's economy, create jobs, improve the reliability of our energy support, and ensure nation security.

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.