

TCR CITY OF HOUSTON ELECTIONS 2009 QUESTIONNAIRE

1. DO YOU SUPPORT CAPPING RESIDENTIAL PROPEERTY TAX APPRAISALS AT A MAXIMUM 5% INCREASE PER YEAR?
Bradford's Response: Yes! We must continue to diversify Houston's economic engines into new areas creating more jobs and revenue sources. Citizens can do better and businesses will flourish better if they are relieved from some of the excessive taxes, permitting, and other fee burdens currently imposed on them. Private citizens and businesses generate revenues. They need as much free reign to operate as possible. The City, and government in general, tend to over regulate.
2. DO YOU SUPPORT A REQUIREMENT THAT THE CITY NOT RAISE TAXES WITHOUT A SUPERMAJORITY OF AT LEAST 60% OF CITY COUNCIL?
Bradford's Response: Yes! Tax increases are serious, almost always irrevocable actions. The impact can be devastating for individuals and businesses alike. Therefore, the greater community input into taxing decisions (via elected representatives) the greater likelihood that other alternatives have been exhausted and increasing taxes is truly a last resort and necessary.
3. DO YOU SUPPORT A SPENDING CAP LIMITING THE INCREASE IN CITY SPENDING TO THE RATE OF GROWTH OF POPULATION PLUS INFLATION?
Bradford's Response: Yes! Houston's economy is doing better than many other areas in our country. We can provide for Houston's fiscal needs and keep a balanced budget by ensuring that the funds are allocated sufficiently and spending reduced. Redundant City/County operations need to be addressed, overall efficiencies enhanced and wasted eliminated.
4. DO YOU SUPPORT ESTABLISHING A "GRACE" TYPE COMMISSION TO IDENTIFY WAYS FOR THE CITY TO ELIMINATE FRAUD, WASTE, ABUSE, INCOMPETENCE AND SUGGESTED OPERATING EFFICIENCIES?
Bradford's Response: Yes! Community input is good for government. Having a "GRACE" type commission would bring fresh ideas and new strategies to City Hall regarding productivity and performance. Also, commission members would get a better picture of city services costs and its impact on businesses and the city of Houston. I would welcome such ideas to assist with the elimination of waste, identify strategies to increase efficiency, and communicate productivity expectations.
5. DO YOU SUPPORT THE CONSOLIDATION OF CITY FUNCTIONS WITH HARRIS COUNTY WHERE IT IS PRACTICAL?
Bradford's Response: Yes! Public dollars need to be used as efficiently as possible without duplication of public agencies activities. Regional government solutions work well when deployed for the greater good of all. City of Houston, Harris County, Metro, and surrounding entities must reduce spending. Redundant, overlapping, antiquated, non-efficient operations must be addressed.

6. DO YOU SUPPORT ENDING RACE AND GENDER BASED AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAMS TO BE REPLACED BY A NEED BASED SYSTEM?
Bradford's Response: Yes! The current program obviously has not worked. A need based program would address disadvantaged businesses issues. Real competitive bidding would reduce projects cost and enhance project quality when completed, while allowing small businesses more opportunity to participate and grow.
7. DO YOU SUPPORT THE RIGHT OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS TO ADD ITEMS TO THE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA IF APPROVED BY A MAJORITY OF MEMBERS?
Bradford's Response: Yes! The process works best when broad, substantive input is allowed and encouraged. Members are elected to represent constituents. Agenda items can only get full attention, discussion and legislative action if placed on the agenda.
8. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE PRIVATE PROPERTY FROM INDIVIDUALS OR CORPORATIONS FOR THE "GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY" WITHOUT PAYING FAIR COMPENSATION?
Bradford's Response: No! I support private property rights. Government intervention must be kept to a minimum. The government must intervene sometimes for health and safety reasons. Even then, government's intervention must be a limited, measured approach with broad and substantive input from the citizens and businesses impacted by such proposed action.
9. DO YOU SUPPORT THE GRANTING OF PUBLIC TAX FUNDS FOR PRIVATE OR SEMI-PRIVATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AREAS THAT ARE NOT ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED?
Bradford's Response: No! Public funds must be utilized for public good which benefits the greater good of all.
10. DO YOU SUPPORT EXPANSION OR REORGANIZING THE POLICE DEPARTMENT SO THAT OFFICERS PATROL WITH A PARTNER, AT LEAST DURING NIGHT HOURS?
Bradford's Response: Yes! Officer safety and effective, safe delivery of police services are real challenges today. There are too many situations that police officers confront that would be best handled by two-officer units. With limited backup, large geographical areas to cover, an increase in crime and violent suspects, officers and citizens would be better served by having a portion of two-officer units deployed in the field.