

**1. DO YOU SUPPORT CAPPING RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY TAX APPRAISALS AT A MAXIMUM 5% INCREASE PER YEAR?**

I support efforts to lower property taxes, and appraisal caps are one of many options. But changes to them must be made by the state legislature. One thing the city itself can do to provide immediate property tax relief is to increase the homestead exemption which would have a more direct impact on homeowners.

**2. DO YOU SUPPORT A REQUIREMENT THAT THE CITY NOT RAISE TAXES WITHOUT A SUPER MAJORITY OF AT LEAST 60% OF CITY COUNCIL?**

Yes. As Mayor, I'll be committed to building consensus on the issues facing our city. I'll work with the City Council to shape smart, fiscally responsible policies that protect the taxpayers, keep Houston business friendly, and provide opportunities for growth. More broadly, I think we should be focused on how we lower taxes, instead of how we raise them, so that we can provide additional property tax relief.

**3. DO YOU SUPPORT A SPENDING CAP LIMITING THE INCREASE IN CITY SPENDING TO THE RATE OF GROWTH OF POPULATION PLUS INFLATION?**

We already have an ordinance that has this effect. But we should go further than is required in our efforts to limit spending. We need to keep taxes low, do more with less and cut waste and bureaucracy in city government.

**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?**

More than just a commission or another study group, we need a mayor committed to making government more efficient in everything they do. I've committed myself to cutting waste and abuse from contracts on City Council and have slashed my own office budget. I'll bring this fiscal discipline to the mayor's office. Every city policy, every city department, every employee and every dollar spent should fill a specific, necessary, and unique role, integrated into a broader plan to get the job done right. And when I'm mayor, I'll focus all of city government on being more efficient and lowering costs.

**5. DO YOU SUPPORT THE CONSOLIDATION OF CITY FUNCTIONS WITH HARRIS COUNTY WHERE IT IS PRACTICAL?**

Absolutely, and I've proposed doing this in my Blueprint For An Even Better Houston ([PeterBrownforMayor.com/Blueprint](http://PeterBrownforMayor.com/Blueprint)). City government performs many of the same functions that other local entities such as Harris County do, often less effectively and at an added cost to taxpayers. I will seek to combine these functions where possible, getting better results, reducing costs and overhead, and saving taxpayer dollars. These areas may include local health departments, library management, parks, and housing and community development.

**6. DO YOU SUPPORT ENDING RACE AND GENDER BASED AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PROGRAMS TO BE REPLACED BY A NEED BASED SYSTEM?**

I support expanding our current Office of Affirmative Action to meet the needs of all small businesses as an Office of Small and MWBE Businesses focused on promoting business development. It will serve all small businesses and help minority and woman-owned enterprises earn City contracts and become more effective competitors. I believe that we

should shift our focus so that rather than handing small businesses a slice of contracts, we give them access to the support they need to compete for and earn full contracts.

**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?**

Changes to our governance need to go through the voters, but I do support reforming our system to give more power to City Council members.

**8. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT GOVERNMENTS SHOULD TAKE PRIVATE PROPERTY FROM INDIVIDUALS OR CORPORATIONS FOR THE "GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY" WITHOUT PAYING FAIR COMPENSATION?**

No, I don't think the government should take property without providing fair compensation. I believe we need to incentivize development where it makes the most sense so we can create economic opportunities without taking property. The city should seek outcomes that respect private property rights while enhancing the community.

**9. DO YOU SUPPORT THE GRANTING OF PUBLIC TAX FUNDS FOR PRIVATE OR SEMI-PRIVATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AREAS THAT ARE NOT ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED?**

We need to encourage development and economic growth where it can do the most good, which is not always in what are considered to be economically disadvantaged areas.

**10. DO YOU SUPPORT EXPANSION OR REORGANIZING THE POLICE DEPARTMENT SO THAT OFFICERS PATROL WITH A PARTNER, AT LEAST DURING NIGHT HOURS?**

The most important duty of city government is to protect its citizens and keep the city safe. And we need to do that without endangering our law enforcement officers. In my "Get Tough, Get Smart" Public Safety Blueprint I outlined a reorganization of the police force to focus on decentralized, neighborhood policing. In some instances, this reorganization will likely mean officers riding patrols together, and I'd set of goal of doing this wherever necessary. I think what's most important is that we make sure the tactics we use closely match the public safety needs of the neighborhood, which is the philosophy at the heart of decentralized policing.