

Locke TCR City of Houston Election 2009 – Questionnaire

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

X
Over the last few years the increase in property valuations has caused property taxes to increase on many Houstonians. Due to the economic downturn, I do not believe that appraisals will continue to rise as quickly as they have in the recent past.

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

I do not favor a tax increase, in working with City Council, the mayor should always strive to get as much support as possible on all initiatives.

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

I believe that the city must live within its means. We are in a time when taxpayers expect the city to do more with less. We can not continue to spend more then we take in.

✓
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?

One of my first acts as mayor will be to scrub the budget from top to bottom to find waste and inefficacies. City government needs to be held to a higher standard because we are serving the people of Houston.

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

I will take a close look at places where we can partner with Harris County to save money for both the city and the county. One place we will partner will be on jails. Taxpayers should not have to support both a city and a county jail. We can save millions but partnering with the county on a single jail.

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

I am a strong believer in equality and opportunity for all.

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?

X As mayor I will have a strong working relationship with the entire City Council. We will work together on issues important to Houstonians from all over the city.

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

✓ No.

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

X We need to use every tool available to bring new jobs and businesses to the city. This includes tax abatements and economic development grants when appropriate.

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

✓ We need more to get more police onto our streets. In my Plan to Keep Houston Safe I talk about the importance of going back to two-officer units to make our neighborhoods safer and better protect our officers.