

TCR CITY OF HOUSTON ELECTIONS 2009 QUESTIONNAIRE

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

✓ Yes. I currently work for Senator Dan Patrick, one of the leading, conservative voices in the fight for appraisal caps. After working for him for almost three years now, I have seen and heard from people who can no longer afford their homes because of high property taxes. I did not receive the endorsement of a group because I would not back down on this issue. I stand firm that taxing people out of their homes is unacceptable, and I plan on being the leading, conservative voice in this fight on the city level.

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

✓ Yes. Elected officials are in office to represent the people's views. If we asked the people if they wanted a raise in their taxes, the answer would be no. Raising taxes should not be taken lightly. The City Charter should be amended to require a supermajority on these critical issues.

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

✓ Yes. There is no need to spend more than the rate of growth plus inflation. It would be superfluous to spend more than this. I am fiscally (and socially) conservative and do not believe we should spend more money.

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?

✓ YES! I am excited this question is being asked on this form because it means that it is an important issue at the forefront of people's mind. This is my number one platform issue. I have been saying for months that we need a sunset review program on the city level to research the programs we put our money into. We need to see where our money is being spent. Often, current council members will vote to create a new program and not look back at it until there are complaints, usually because of tragic events. It is time to be more accountable to our citizens. While my opponents may agree with my idea in creating this sunset review program, I am the one who will fight for it because it has been the issue I have been running on for months.

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

Yes, where it is practical to do so. One of the biggest problems I have heard is that constituents never know who to call when they are experiencing a problem, usually regarding flooding. They call Houston and are told to call Harris County and then when they call Harris County, they are told to call Houston. Another platform issue I have is to put all of the information about flooding online so people can see when their sewer and drainage systems are to be maintained and repaired. Also online will be an interactive map that will allow people to see what function is the purview of Houston versus Harris County. This should alleviate some of these problems, but we should also consolidate when practical to ensure productivity. I will run the city like a business, and businesses often consolidate when necessary.

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

Yes. There may have been a time and place for affirmative action when certain groups did not have access to education and equal opportunities. If we ensure equality, there is no need for affirmative action in government. The current affirmative action program in the City of Houston just perpetuates race and gender discrimination. Affirmative action was created to ensure equality, but it is inherently unequal. I favor offering jobs to people who are qualified, no matter race or gender.

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?

Yes. Currently, the only items on the agenda are those that are placed there by the mayor. We need to spread this responsibility and take it out of the hands of one person. This will allow for a better check and balance system for Houston.

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. The Houston Floodway Coalition has endorsed me for my belief on this issue. At one point, the City of Houston passed an ordinance that took away the rights of property owners to build in the floodway. We do need to address flooding in Houston, but this is not the way to do so. The City basically took away land from people without any compensation. I fought on behalf of the