



## Questions for Candidates for November 2018 Election

1. What is your opinion/position on lowering the cap on Texas' Rainy Day Fund?

I believe in sound fiscal policy that includes reserves such as the Rainy Day Fund for use in responsible, limited one time expenditures and for use in times of crisis. I do not believe the state should be put in a position to be dependent on reserves to balance a budget or make ongoing expenses. With our Rainy Day Fund at record levels and a refusal to consider the Fund for Hurricane Harvey, I believe it's time for an honest conversation about long-term priorities associated with the Fund.

2. What is your opinion/position on tax rates for local governments and the rollback rate?

I believe the best way to approach rising property taxes on Texas families is to address the broken school finance formula currently facing our state, and grow local tax bases through economic development programs, career training programs and public-private partnerships. I believe removing the petition requirement and forcing automatic rollback elections will minimally reduce property taxes and divert time from the driver of skyrocketing property tax rates: state funding cuts to public education.

3. Do you support creating a Texas Plan for Medicaid? Why or why not?

Healthy Texans are productive Texans. I know that access to quality and affordable health care will keep our state economy strong and is crucial to our quality of life in North Texas. Texas-focused solutions to improve health care options for all Texas families while encouraging job growth within the health industry should never be out of reach. I agree with members of both parties in states around the nation which have taken the responsible step to expand Medicaid. This alone will bring billions of dollars back to Texas and provide healthcare for around 100,000 people in Tarrant County hundreds of thousands more around the metroplex. By providing greater access to healthcare, we can limit the need for expensive emergency costs passed on to the taxpayer. Additionally, I believe that the state can work with communities across the Texas to promote healthy living and other strategies which, in the long run, will reduce health costs and promote healthy living.

4. What percentage of the M&O funding should the State provide to school districts? Please explain your opinion.

I believe the state should work to return to funding around 50% of public education. In order to do this we must fix the broken school finance system. The legislature must commit to increasing the state share of public education funding but we also must update formulas. I believe that HB21, a school finance reform bill from last session, was a good start at modernizing our state formulas and I was disappointed that school vouchers were added to the bill. We must bring together a coalition to modernize formulas and increase funding levels—it's the only ways to fix funding inequities and decrease the property tax burden in Texas families as a result of state's decreasing contributions to school finance.

5. What is your opinion/position on using State funding for universal pre-K?

Studies have made clear that full day pre-K has lasting long term benefits for students. I strongly support the state offering full day pre-K and kindergarten. I disagree the philosophy that pre-K does not achieve long term results and believe our state should invest in the education of our children as early as possible. Furthermore, I believe we need to reform the criteria for the pre-K program passed in 2015 to ensure districts have the resources they need to provide high quality pre-k to students in addition to increasing funding so more schools districts can participate in full day pre- k.

6. What do you think about economic development incentives/tools for cities to attract businesses/employees?

Tarrant County businesses and families see the benefits of strategic economic development every single day. In Arlington, strategic economic development has helped attract the Super Bowl and College Football National Championship. In the northern part of Tarrant County, bipartisan strategic economic development attracted the Facebook data center. The success of strategic economic development programs has helped create good jobs in Tarrant County, meaning families that live in SD10 have new opportunities because of the strategic thinking of businesses and public officials. We must fight back against attempts to dismantle these programs and instead look at ways to create new investment opportunities that will attract great businesses to Texas.

Your answers will be published on the Chamber's website and communicated directly to members.

_____ Beverly Powell _____		_____ 10.5.18
Printed Name of Candidate	Signature of Candidate	Date

Please return to Mary Frazier, HEB Chamber, [maryfrazier@heb.org](mailto:maryfrazier@heb.org) by Friday, October 5, 2018, 5:00 p.m.