



Questions for Candidates for November 2018 Election

1. What is your opinion/position on lowering the cap on Texas' Rainy Day Fund?
 - Our state's economic stabilization fund is vital to the sustainability of our state budget and to our state's credit rating. Given this importance, I do not support reducing the amount that can be placed in the Rainy Day Fund.
2. What is your opinion/position on tax rates for local governments and the rollback rate?
 - Each session I have been in the legislature I have supported property tax relief and reform measures to reduce the rollback rate and make rollback elections automatic.
 - In the 85th Regular and Special Sessions, I supported measures that would have lowered the rollback rate to 4%. While these measures did not pass, I will continue to advocate for taxpayers by supporting these reforms next session.
3. Do you support creating a Texas Plan for Medicaid? Why or why not?
 - Medicaid is a system that is briskly outpacing the state's ability to fund it. I support a federal "block granting" of Texas' federal Medicaid funds so that we can craft a program that is best for our state, however, I am opposed to expansion of Medicaid to higher income thresholds.
4. What percentage of the M&O funding should the State provide to school districts? Please explain your opinion.
 - The real question to me is: how is the current state level failing to meet the state's constitutional duty?
 - I am in agreement with many who claim the system is flawed, but also am skeptical of claims that more money is always the answer, because it is not.
5. What is your opinion/position on using State funding for universal pre-K?
 - I opposed the initial universal Pre-K for school districts and do not support state funding for Pre-K.
 - There are several reasons for this.

- First, I find it not the least bit ironic that every session the legislature is told that public education is "underfunded" by the state, but then, school districts are asking for the state's authority and additional funding to add a completely new grade level. Prudence and logic would dictate that if schools are "underfunded" now with their current grades K-12 mandate, what good does it do seeking to add another?
 - Second, I am hesitant to expand a government system in light of the large private presence in the Pre-kindergarten sphere. Private Pre-K programs are abundant and there is not a compelling need for the state to provide this service.
 - Lastly, state involvement in this area of education will drive-out the private sector and increase dependence on government. For these reasons, I cannot support expansion of Pre-K.
6. What do you think about economic development incentives/tools for cities to attract businesses/employees?
- I describe incentives for what they are: corporate welfare. It is unconscionable to tax one corporation simply to fund its competition through incentives. I am strongly opposed to these programs and will oppose any effort to reauthorize 312 and 313 abatements.
 - I believe that true and lasting economic development is what attracts entrepreneurs. This happens when we fund the core functions of state government, keep taxes and regulations low, and oppose a state income tax.

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

Konni Burton
Printed Name of Candidate

Konni Burton
Signature of Candidate

10/4/18
Date

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