

2019 HOUSTON AREA PASTOR COUNCIL ISSUES SURVEY
FOR CITY COUNCIL/MAYORAL CANDIDATES

CANDIDATE NAME: Sonia Rivera

OFFICE/POSITION SAUGHT: Houston City Council At Large Position 5

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FISCAL AND BUDGET

1. Adopting Property Tax Relief for victims of natural disasters (Harvey)?

UNDECIDED: I would need to gather more information regarding the short and long term economic impact to our citizens.

2. Revising city ordinances to address conflicts of interest in awarding city contracts?

SUPPORT: We are experiencing costly consequences resulting from methodology of awarding city contracts. The complete lack of accountability is costing the city taxpayers millions of dollars, resulting in reduction and loss of basic city services. The way city contracts are currently awarded are a complete mockery to the competitive bidding process, contractors are not held accountable, and are not awarded based on performance. This has cost our taxpayers not only in the way of loss of city services, but also in continuous loss of quality of life, our homes, our vehicles, and loss of life in some instances.

3. Policy change directing that all city funds received through drainage be spent on flooding remediation and drainage enhancement projects

SUPPORT: Rain tax fees have been used to pay down other debt instead of being used for the purpose it was intended. This referendum passed and was voted upon for the specific purpose of flood mitigation projects, to use funds for other purposes is deceitful and has resulted in continuous flooding.

4. Zero Based budgeting for city agencies and departments (starting at zero each cycle)

SUPPORT

GROWTH MANAGEMENT

5. Adopting commercial and /or residential zoning ordinances or other growth management restrictions

SUPPORT: We have experienced exponential growth in recent years and will continue to see rapid growth and development, without implementing responsible commercial and residential zoning ordinances to mitigate future sewage and flooding issues we will continue to see more developments without addressing one of the root causes of our flooding issues.

6. Expanding the light rail system as a primary means of improving transportation.

OPPOSE: While we do need to develop strategies to improve Houston mobility, the cost to extend while Houston's infrastructure is in its current stage does not justify the expense at this time.

7. The use of eminent domain economic development.

OPPOSE: We must exhaust all other possibilities and include community participation prior to deciding the fate of peoples homes and business and making decisions that will potentially displace families and businesses.

COMMUNITY PROTECTION

8. Enforcing maximum legal restrictions of all Sexually Oriented Businesses equally?

SUPPORT: Sexually oriented business often serve as a conduit to human trafficking, drugs, violence, and other criminal behavior. I support any and all enforcement of legal restrictions to ensure the safety of our communities.

9. Current regulations and restrictions on feeding of the homeless by churches and individuals?

SUPPORT: Having previously worked with homeless populations I do understand the purpose for the ordinance is to drive homeless to seek assistance from shelters and community based organizations so that they may be tracked, and case management may be provided. There is no easy solution to the homelessness as each individuals root cause for homelessness differs from one person to another. I would call for strategic partnerships which include churches and CBO's participation to determine the root causes, and best to address the problem.

10. Campaign Ethic reform that includes prohibition on accepting contributions from part or full owners of Sexually Oriented Businesses?

SUPPORT: I believe that campaign finance reform is necessary and should be applied to all individuals who contribute to campaigns including those who operate Sexually Oriented Businesses.

11. Policy assuring an adequate level of staffing and academies for Houston Police Department as a budget priority?

SUPPORT: One of my priorities is to do a comprehensive review of all

departments to determine how to streamline operations and reallocate resources in order to allocate funding and resources to both our Police Department to increase cadet recruitment efforts, increase the number of cadet classes, as well ensuring we have adequate resources to keep our officers safe.

12. A Human Trafficking Task Force of city officials, law enforcement, judicial, business, NGO's and churches?

SUPPORT

SOCIAL ISSUES

13. Prohibit abortion except to save the life of the mother?

OPPOSE: I am prolife

14. Prohibit abortion except in cases of rape, incest, or to save the life of the mother?

SUPPORT: I am prolife

15. Prohibit adult sexual content and performers in Houston Public Library system program and materials accessible to children?

SUPPORT: We must protect our children from the indoctrination of alternative lifestyles that do not support Christian values

16. A city ordinance creating discrimination protections for sexual orientation, gender identity, or other sexual behavior?

SUPPORT : I will support discrimination protections, however the language in such ordinances must be clear and not to infringe on the protection and rights of others. i.e. I did not support the HERO Ordinance, in its present form due to my opposition of transgender use of female bathrooms.

17. The definition of marriage as only the union of one natural man and one natural woman.

SUPPORT

FAITH/RELIGION

Are you a member of a faith community?

YES

I have recently joined Inspire Church, I am a former member of Grace Church SE and raised my children attending Grace Church, until moving to another area of Houston.

Pastor: Pastor Heard

Please describe personal religious beliefs:

I was raised Catholic, and later as an adult sought out non-denomination churches as I felt most connected in that environment.

I raised 2 children as a single mother and worked 2/3 jobs while attending college, and raising my children. It is only through the grace of God that I stand here today, as an entrepreneur, mother of 2 grown children, and community activist. It is because of my strong foundation and belief in God that I am compelled to run for office. I believe this country was founded and built on Christian principles and we must return to leading with those same principles. The deterioration of our families, communities, and government are attributed to the removal of God as the focal point in our lives. The removal of God in our schools, and government has led to instability in our young people, families, and communities. Our leaders have deviated so far away from the values of which our country was founded on, and our city is in crisis as a result. Our Christian community must reengage, and elect leaders which will lead with strong Christian values.

Sonia Rivera

10/1/2019

Sonia Rivera

Candidate for Houston City Council At Large Position 5

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"Have no fear of perfection - you'll never reach it." - Salvador Dalí

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