

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE  
REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL AND  
SAFETY CONCERNS

2023 JOINT, GENERAL AND SPECIAL ELECTIONS



# Table of Contents

Candidates have been listed firstly by incumbent status, then alphabetically by last name. Answers are presented as received. If a candidate is not listed – a response was not received by the given deadline.

## **Mayor p. 1-12**

1. Jack Christie
2. Robert Gallegos
3. Annie “Mama” Garcia
4. Gilbert Garcia
5. Lee Kaplan
6. David C. Lowy
7. Julian “Bemer” Martinez
8. Chanel Mbala
9. Kathy Lee Tatum
10. Roy Vasquez
11. John Whitmire
12. Robin Williams

## **City Council At Large Position 1 p. 13-15**

13. Eriq C. Glenn
14. Melanie Miles
15. Leah Wolfthal

## **City Council At Large Position 2 p. 16-19**

16. Marina Angelica Corycat
17. Nick Hellyar
18. Obioha “Obes” Nwabara
19. Holly Flynn Vilaseca

## **City Council At Large Position 3 p. 20-22**

20. Casey Curry
21. Ethan Michelle Ganz
22. Ericka McCrutheon

## **City Council At Large Position 4 p. 23-24**

23. Letitia L. Plummer – Incumbent
24. Andrew “Drew” Patterson

## **City Council At Large Position 5 p. 25-26**

25. Sallie Alcorn – Incumbent
26. Rigo Hernandez



**Candidate Name:**

**JACK CHRISTIE**

**Running for:**

**MAYOR – CHALLENGER**

**Campaign Site:**

**[WWW.CHRISTIEFORMAYOR.COM](http://WWW.CHRISTIEFORMAYOR.COM)**

**1**

**Q1. If you are elected, what will you do to address the impact of environmental quality (air, land, and water quality) on health? What does environmental justice mean to you?**

A: During my entire 8 years at an At-Large Member of City Council--on every occasion--I took the lead on advocating for the cleanest possible environment for quality of life. As a health professional, I have helped tens of thousands of patients improve their internal environment as well as their external environment. A symbiotic relationship between the two provides a high quality of life.

**Q2. What do you think are the most effective strategies to decrease air pollution from (1) industry and (2) the transportation system?**

A. Double the number of air monitors, especially along the ship channel, and work with industry leaders through mutual concern for all of the citizens; including their own employees.

**Q5. If elected, how will you engage your constituents and ensure that impacted community members have a voice and influence in decision-making related to environmental issues?**

A. That has always been one of my missions in life and that goes all the way back to Boy Scouts. As our next mayor, I will continue my dedication to clean environments and I will continue to listen and learn.

**Q4. What will you do to expand the city's role in solving the climate crisis, especially for those on the frontlines exposed to extreme heat and weather events?**

A. While there is no way to totally control the vacillations of nature, it is common sense for us to be good stewards of our environment and I will always support cleaner air and water.

**Q3. How would you work to protect public health and safety considering our region's history of (1) industrial disasters and (2) roadway injuries and fatalities?**

A. Safety protocols must be constantly followed and updated annually. As per roadway injuries and fatalities, we must make preventing DUI-involved crashes the highest priority.



**Candidate Name:**  
**ROBERT GALLEGOS**

**2**

**Running for:**  
**MAYOR – CHALLENGER**  
**Campaign Site:**  
**WWW.VOTEROBERTGALLEGOS.COM**

**Q1. If you are elected, what will you do to address the impact of environmental quality (air, land, and water quality) on health? What does environmental justice mean to you?**

A: The American Lung Association grades Houston with an F for Ozone; for Particle Pollution on a 24 hour basis a C for Particle Pollution on an Annual Basis as a Pass. We must improve those grades as quickly as possible. As mayor, I will work with TCEQ and Harris County to install more pollution monitors and hold pollution violators responsible for violations. Through the City Office of Resilience and Sustainability, I would accelerate the process to convert all city vehicles electric within my first term. I would appoint a METRO board chairman who would also commit to have all METRO vehicles all electric within 4 years. Environmental justice to me means that all Houstonians regardless of race, color, national origin, or income have a right to the same environmental protections and benefits, as well as substantial input in the creation of policies and decisions that affect their communities.

**Q2. What do you think are the most effective strategies to decrease air pollution from (1) industry and (2) the transportation system?**

A. Effective strategies for the industry include installing more monitors in the communities close to the industries mostly in the east end and reporting violations immediately. I partnered with County Commissioner Adrian Garcia to have an air monitor placed at Hartman Park (Manchester) which is close to industries along the ship channel. The Houston Health Department recently received funding for portable air monitors from the (EPA and TCEQ) to be used in addition to the 10 stationary monitoring systems. I would acquire more monitors both permanent and portable. Effective strategies to decrease air pollution from the transportation system begins with reducing traffic congestion. Working with METRO to provide more Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) routes so we have less vehicles on the road. Replacing city vehicles to all electric quickly, providing more electric car charging stations for the public, synchronizing city traffic lights, creating more hike and bike trails and designated lanes.

**Q5. If elected, how will you engage your constituents and ensure that impacted community members have a voice and influence in decision-making related to environmental issues?**

A. As a Houston City Council Member for the last ten years, it was ALWAYS important to engage the community for their input to prior to making a decision on whether to proceed with a project impacting them. As Mayor, I would also reach out to the communities through civic clubs, super neighborhoods, community activist groups including Air Alliance Houston, Coalition for Environment, Equity, and Resilience (CEER), Bike Houston, Bayou City Waterkeeper, LINK Houston as well other groups to engage impacted community members and hold community meetings so they may voice their opinions. As Mayor, I would listen to residents and do their will not that of special interest groups.

**Q3. How would you work to protect public health and safety considering our region's history of (1) industrial disasters and (2) roadway injuries and fatalities?**

A. Industrial disasters are handled by the City of Houston Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and coordinate with other city departments, Harris County, state and federal agencies. I would have the department work more closely and do more outreach work with the communities to promote more emergency preparedness through various initiatives. I support Vision Zero Houston which is the City's commitment to end traffic deaths and serious injuries on Houston streets by 2030. Vision Zero prioritizes safety and accessibility in street design for people of all ages and abilities. It also identifies high injury streets and looks for ways to make them safer for all users.

**Q4. What will you do to expand the city's role in solving the climate crisis, especially for those on the frontlines exposed to extreme heat and weather events?**

A. As Mayor, I will create an advisory board to provide assist the city in reviewing, modifying, and implementing the Resilient Houston Climate Action Plan. The Plan's framework includes: Prepared & Thriving Houstonians; Safe & Equitable Neighborhoods; Healthy & Connected Bayous; Accessible & Adaptive City; and Innovative & Integrated Region. The Action Plan's Focus and Goals cover: Transportation, Energy Transition, Building Optimization and Materials Management. The Climate Action Plan also includes that the City plant 4.6 million trees by 2030. Currently, it has planted 1.3 million trees. I would look for additional private partners so that we can reach that goal sooner. Those on the frontlines need immediate protection and I will use the advisory board to recommend immediate actions that can be taken.

**Candidate Name:****ANNIE "MAMA" GARCIA****Running for:****MAYOR – CHALLENGER****Campaign Site:****WWW.MAMAFORMAYOR.COM****Q1. If you are elected, what will you do to address the impact of environmental quality (air, land, and water quality) on health? What does environmental justice mean to you?**

A: Environmental justice is an acknowledgement of the inequitable distribution of both costs and resources and, hopefully, accompanied by the will to do rectify it. You can literally map respiratory health, heart attacks, and cancer based on income. That's because poorer communities live in more dangerous neighborhoods where environmental hazards are higher. The end result is shorter life expectancies for the impoverished. As Houston's Mayor, I would develop a budget that equitizes the distributions of city resources and city costs. Increased water rates should consider, for example, the HCAD appraisal value of the subject property, and a sliding scale adopted so that the costs are more equitably shared.

**Q2. What do you think are the most effective strategies to decrease air pollution from (1) industry and (2) the transportation system?**

A. Reducing air pollution is vital for Houstonians' health and the environment. With regard to a focus on industry, We need to do better enforcing emissions regulations for industrial facilities, ensuring that they use cleaner technologies and conduct regular emissions testing. In addition, the industry of the past is not Houston's industry of the future. We must prioritize and invest in green technology, encouraging private-public ventures to transition to cleaner, renewable energy sources and implement sustainable practices. With regard to transportation, in addition to evaluating public transportation and making it more efficient, accessible and affordable, we must grow our public transportation network, with the goal of reducing the number of vehicles on the road. Further, by promoting electric vehicles through expanding charging infrastructure and creating a network of safe paths for pedestrian and cyclists throughout the city, we can address air pollution.

**Q5. If elected, how will you engage your constituents and ensure that impacted community members have a voice and influence in decision-making related to environmental issues?**

A. My mission is to ensure that the voices of impacted community members are not only heard but empowered as decision-makers. 1. Community Task Forces: I'll establish task forces composed of local residents, experts, and activists that reflect the diversity of Houston to directly advise on environmental policies. 2. Transparency and Accessibility: All environmental data, reports, and policy drafts will be made easily accessible to the public. I'll host town hall meetings in the communities most affected by environmental issues. 3. Environmental Justice: I'll prioritize the concerns of marginalized communities and communities of color, who have borne the brunt of environmental injustices for far too long. 4. Environmental Impact Assessments: Require thorough environmental impact assessments for major projects, with community input as a central element. As a candidate with nothing to lose and committed to justice, I'll empower disenfranchised communities to drive decisions, holding public servants accountable.

**Q3. How would you work to protect public health and safety considering our region's history of (1) industrial disasters and (2) roadway injuries and fatalities?**

A. To protect public health, we must prioritize prevention and preparedness. As those goals relate to industrial disasters, we should work to enforce stricter safety regulations and promote transparency in the operations of industrial operators. Strengthening emergency response protocols and conducting regular safety drills should be a priority, as well as investing in advanced monitoring technology to detect and mitigate potential hazards early. Regarding roadway safety, I would champion safer streets by enhancing public transit, expanding pedestrian and cyclist-friendly infrastructure and working with police to limit high-speed chases.

**Q4. What will you do to expand the city's role in solving the climate crisis, especially for those on the frontlines exposed to extreme heat and weather events?**

A. To truly curb climate change, action must be taken at the federal level. The next Mayor of Houston should use the platform to push for meaningful change nationally. In the meantime, Houston can serve by example by: (1) Banning Plastic Bags: Implement a ban on single-use plastic bags, prioritizing this crucial step to reduce plastic pollution in our communities and protect our environment; (2) Developing an Equitable City Budget: Our foremost commitment is to marginalized communities disproportionately exposed to extreme heat and weather events. We'll ensure they have access to affordable housing, clean air, and resources to withstand climate impacts. (3) Pushing Renewable Energy: Accelerate our transition to clean, renewable energy sources to reduce emissions and create green jobs with a focus on equitable distribution of benefits. (4) Growing Our Green Spaces: Expand green spaces and tree planting initiatives, prioritizing areas with the greatest need to combat urban heat disparities.



**Candidate Name:**

**GILBERT GARCIA**

**Running for:**

**MAYOR – CHALLENGER**

**Campaign Site:**

**WWW.GARCIAFORHOUSTON.COM**

**Q1. If you are elected, what will you do to address the impact of environmental quality (air, land, and water quality) on health? What does environmental justice mean to you?**

A. I understand that in people of color and lower income communities, the illegal dumping, air quality and water quality are much worse than in other higher income communities. There are things that would not be acceptable in other communities. We cannot continue to accept this, and I would work to put an end to this injustice within minority communities. As mayor, I would acknowledge and address issues with commitments I have stated in my Pledge for Houston. I will need to enforce existing policies and to create new ones. Environmental justice is ensuring that all communities have the right to a clean and healthy environment. It means that communities should have input into plans that affect their communities.

**Q2. What do you think are the most effective strategies to decrease air pollution from (1) industry and (2) the transportation system?**

A. As the Former Chair of Metro, I know firsthand how important it is to invest in public transportation. I am proud that I was able to expand light rail to Houston. Houston needs to expand our bus system, light rail and park and ride systems to reduce the number of vehicles on the road and get the traffic moving to reduce emissions. The city needs to expand electric, hybrid and compressed natural gas vehicles to ensure clean and efficient vehicles.

**Q5. If elected, how will you engage your constituents and ensure that impacted community members have a voice and influence in decision-making related to environmental issues?**

A. I believe in open government, transparency and listening to constituents needs. An example is during my time at METRO, when we were revamping the bus system, I knew it was important to meet with constituents to hear their concerns and answer any questions they had. We talked to many different communities and acknowledged their input when making changes. I wanted to implement transparency within the agency, so I made sure to add the entire check registry online for people to see exactly where their tax dollars went. We won transparency awards and won Transit Agency of the Year in all North America in 2016. That is exactly what I would do as Mayor in City Hall. I would also meet with stakeholders on a recurring basis to ensure that we are moving forward on our initiatives. All this information will be made to the public and communicated on social media.

**Q3. How would you work to protect public health and safety considering our region's history of (1) industrial disasters and (2) roadway injuries and fatalities?**

A. As far as roadway injuries and fatalities Houstonians need to stay off their phones while driving! We need to assess high fatality intersections and integrate and educate safety measures. We also need to make sure that our roads are maintained, and debris is removed from the roads and potholes and curbs are maintained. Emergency preparedness is important in Houston and an area that needs constant safety reviews and improvements. I would make sure that the regulations that are set are enforced including those that will be on our roads like hazardous materials. We also need to make sure that all first responders from all government entities can communicate and train together for emergency preparedness.

**Q4. What will you do to expand the city's role in solving the climate crisis, especially for those on the frontlines exposed to extreme heat and weather events?**

A. Houston should be at the forefront of action plans to target climate change and we should set clear targets to reduce emissions. Our city is becoming increasingly hotter. We need to make sure that we have ways to protect our vulnerable populations during heatwaves. We need more cooling centers and emergency centers for extreme weather events including flooding and potential ice storms.



**Candidate Name:**

**LEE KAPLAN**

**Running for:**

**MAYOR – CHALLENGER**

**Campaign Site:**

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**5**

**Q1. If you are elected, what will you do to address the impact of environmental quality (air, land, and water quality) on health? What does environmental justice mean to you?**

A. We need to ensure that the right people are in charge of our departments and they should be held accountable. We cannot have a situation again where the water is unsafe, but notice doesn't go out until it is too late. We also need to make our air safer by making our city more walkable. We need to approve mixed use development projects so people can live close to where they work and shop to lower reliance on cars..

**Q2. What do you think are the most effective strategies to decrease air pollution from (1) industry and (2) the transportation system?**

As stated above we need make our city more walkable and less reliant on the use of cars. We need to build so people can live, work and shop in close proximity. Second, we need to expand mass transit in areas likely to have high ridership. This will help to lower traffic and improve the environment.

**Q3. How would you work to protect public health and safety considering our region's history of (1) industrial disasters and (2) roadway injuries and fatalities?**

A. We need strict penalties for companies that continue to violate health and safety rules that protect workers and our community. My City Attorney will aggressively enforce local ordinance laws and we will contact state and federal authorities whenever we detect violations of their laws. We need a larger police presence on our roadways and stricter enforcement of major violations on our roads. I believe taking these actions would go a long way towards making our roads safer for drivers and pedestrians alike.

**Q4. What will you do to expand the city's role in solving the climate crisis, especially for those on the frontlines exposed to extreme heat and weather events?**

A. I strongly support taking strong action to address climate change. We've already seen the effects here with massive flooding in our city, hurricane damage destroying communities, and deep freezes that put our residents and businesses at risk. In the short term, I'd ensure that drainage fee funding is used to fix our drainage and make needed infrastructure improvements to prevent additional massive flooding. In the long term, I am open to supporting additional actions to combat the causes of climate change.

**Q5. If elected, how will you engage your constituents and ensure that impacted community members have a voice and influence in decision-making related to environmental issues?**

A. I will have an open door policy as Mayor. I will ensure that everyone has input in city policy, not just those with political connections. This means my staff and I will create a policy process that is fully transparent and will seek comments from individuals and stakeholders before making decisions that will impact the environment in our city.



**Candidate Name:**

**DAVID C. LOWY**

**Running for:**

**MAYOR – CHALLENGER**

**Campaign Site:**

**WWW.LOWYFORMAYOR.COM**

**6**

**Q1. If you are elected, what will you do to address the impact of environmental quality (air, land, and water quality) on health? What does environmental justice mean to you?**

A. The first thing I will do is recommend that everyone switch to driving electric vehicles as soon as they possible, which reduces direct pollution. Next, and I consider this of tantamount importance, on a weekly basis through whatever means of communication necessary, I will beseech Houstonians to be heroes by driving better and saving lives. 46,000 people died in the U.S. last year of which over 600 were Houstonians. We are all members of the world family and can do more to protect each other by simply driving more intelligently. Environmental justice means that people living in unsafe environments must be provided access to healthier locations by means of city, state, and federal funding and other assistance. Living in unsafe, unhealthy environments is what I would call a "slow emergency" that builds up over a period of years until the effects are obvious and frequently too late to ameliorate.

**Q2. What do you think are the most effective strategies to decrease air pollution from (1) industry and (2) the transportation system?**

A. More solar powered businesses. All public buildings should have solar panels for electricity and water heating. All homes should have solar power too. Passenger cars should all be electric, and preferably autonomous. That goes for commercial vehicles as well. This tremendously reduces both chemical and noise pollution, which is a big concern in our huge town. Our METRO trains are electric, but would, it seems, be better if they were maglev trains, or at least had their wiring underground so as to be less of a hazard to navigation with their numerous poles to support the pantograph system currently in place. Plus, having wiring underground would make the surrounding environment more aesthetically appealing.

**Q5. If elected, how will you engage your constituents and ensure that impacted community members have a voice and influence in decision-making related to environmental issues?**

A. I have an idea: "A Festival of Houstonians" to celebrate everyday accomplishments of ordinary citizens, and bring people together to create unity between all citizens. The event would include extensive demonstrations of many ways we can help protect our precious environment. As the FUN mayor, I want people to have more fun in their daily lives, and, when feeling better, be able to solve life's challenges more effectively, and by doing so together, feel more secure in the unity of realizing that we're all truly related and can work toward each others' well-being, just as we would for our own nuclear families. I would create many more opportunities for people to tell the city government what is happening in their lives and neighborhoods. Council meetings could be held at more convenient times so that more people could attend, observe, and express their views and experiences. I care about YOU!

**Q3. How would you work to protect public health and safety considering our region's history of (1) industrial disasters and (2) roadway injuries and fatalities?**

A. I consider this of tantamount importance -- weekly, I would beseech Houstonians to be heroes by driving better and saving lives. 46,000 people died in the U.S. last year of which over 600 were Houstonians. We are all members of the world family and can do more to protect each other by simply driving more intelligently. I firmly believe that the advent of self-driving vehicles will do a lot to reduce or eliminate the 1,350,000 worldwide road-related deaths annually. Driving is not a war or disease. All drivers, cyclists, bikers and pedestrians can do so much to reduce and eliminate this carnage right now, TODAY, by using common sense and consideration for our families, neighbors, friends, children, and all people of the world to whom we are all related! Address the greed that makes industry overlook damage to people, and the effect that industry has on the planet.

**Q4. What will you do to expand the city's role in solving the climate crisis, especially for those on the frontlines exposed to extreme heat and weather events?**

A. As mayor I would introduce citywide classes in Extreme Weather Education, the aim being to inform everyone of better, simple, proven ways to cope with heat, cold, flooding, and storms. Enlisting the aid of experts in this field, of which I'm sure there are many, we can help people realize that they are not helpless and totally dependent on government for solutions to the challenges we are all increasingly facing. Again, electric vehicles will go a long way to eliminate the type of pollution, including noise, that so drastically affects the environment and peace of our neighborhoods. We must all find ways to conserve water, sources of which are threatened by more frequent heat and drought. Simple things like not running faucets full blast, turning them off while brushing teeth, and shorter showers can help. Becoming aware of how much water our lawns really need will help too.



**Candidate Name:****JULIAN "BEMER" MARTINEZ****Running for:****MAYOR – CHALLENGER****Campaign Site:****WWW.JMARTINEZ2024.COM****Q1. If you are elected, what will you do to address the impact of environmental quality (air, land, and water quality) on health? What does environmental justice mean to you?**

A. If elected the Mayor of Houston, my commitments to the citizens of Houston are to assure safety and health to all Houstonians. The impact of the environmental quality affects all communities and residents. As Mayor I would evaluate and review current projects such as the Houston Consent Decree approved on April 1, 2021, by the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas. I would continue to work with EPA following The Clean Water Act. As Mayor I would continue to review and monitor the relocations of residents of communities such as Fifth Ward and Kashmere Gardens who's some residents have tested positive in cancer linked contaminant like creosote.

**Q2. What do you think are the most effective strategies to decrease air pollution from (1) industry and (2) the transportation system?**

A. If elected Mayor I would use the EPA grant of \$500,000 dated July 10, 2023 to continue to monitor communities in the Houston areas which pose a higher risk of air pollutants such as benzene, formaldehyde and ethylene oxide. Two main chemical plants, Goodyear and Texas Petrochemical, would remain as a concern and be monitored for any pollutants that could cause short- or long-term effects to the surrounding residents. As Mayor I would emphasize current emissions inspections to continue with our city. Emissions test can analyze and measure carbon monoxide, hydrocarbon, carbon dioxide, and oxygen levels. As Mayor I would review and consult with the Transportation Air Quality Subcommittee.

**Q5. If elected, how will you engage your constituents and ensure that impacted community members have a voice and influence in decision-making related to environmental issues?**

A. As I attend many Mayoral forums across our communities in Houston, and I can't help but notice the despair that some Black and Brown communities suffer. As Mayor I would ensure citizens in Pleasantville had clean water to drink. That the city water system was up to date with piping and water lines leading to communities. I would make sure communities like Sunnyside had trash pickup on a regular schedule and communities like 5th Ward and Kashmere Gardens had proper health screenings for toxins. I would advocate for the City of Houston charter to be amended to represent the population proportional voting system. The change would allow every city council district to have a governing board proportional to the population of its district. This proportional representation of city council members would be the voices of their constituents in matters pertaining to flood control, transportation, and environmental issues in their districts.

**Q3. How would you work to protect public health and safety considering our region's history of (1) industrial disasters and (2) roadway injuries and fatalities?**

A. To prevent any industrial disasters, I would communicate with the EPA and monitor ways to improve on hazardous materials management. I would coordinate with the Houston Health Department and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to improve enforcement regarding air quality regulations. Per the Texas Department of Transportation there were 317 deaths in Houston 2022 due to car wrecks and 560 deaths in Harris County. On August 13, 2019, Mayor Sylvester Turner signed the Vision Zero Executive Order, which aims to end traffic deaths and serious injuries in Houston by 2030. As mayor I would review data and annual reports from the Vision Zero Committee to determine what improvements have been made to street designs and construction of roadways, intersections, bikeways, sidewalks, and crosswalks. I would review The Planning and Development Department strategy reports given to the following departments: Mayor's Office of Disabilities, Houston Public Works, Police, and Fire departments.

**Q4. What will you do to expand the city's role in solving the climate crisis, especially for those on the frontlines exposed to extreme heat and weather events?**

A. Since 1972 Houston's temperatures in the months of June, July, and August have increase 4.2 degrees. Houston has been the location of such events as major hurricanes and heat waves. I would request the Regional Flood Management Committee to update and provide recommendations and data reports to ensure all Houstonians are well equipped and prepared for any future events. As Mayor I would request that reports such as the 2023 Summer Package completed by Climate Central on May 31, 2023, be examined, and reviewed for recommendations or advice.



**Candidate Name:**

**CHANEL MBALA**

**Running for:**

**MAYOR – CHALLENGER**

**Campaign Site:**

**WWW.CHANELFORMAYOR.COM**

**8**

**Q1. If you are elected, what will you do to address the impact of environmental quality (air, land, and water quality) on health? What does environmental justice mean to you?**

A. If elected, my approach to addressing health impacts from environmental quality will be: Air Quality: I'll seek practical regulations that promote clean energy innovation, protecting both our environment and job opportunities. Land Quality: I'll support balanced land-use policies that foster economic growth and conservation, ensuring sustainability. Water Quality: Investment in clean water infrastructure will be a priority. Environmental justice means equal opportunities for everyone to enjoy a clean environment. I'll work across the aisle to eliminate disparities and prioritize the well-being of all our constituents.

**Q2. What do you think are the most effective strategies to decrease air pollution from (1) industry and (2) the transportation system?**

A. As an independent candidate, I believe that encouraging green industry practices and championing sustainable transportation solutions, rather than imposing new policies on individuals, is the path to effective change. As an independent candidate, I also see that the federal government missed an opportunity by not promoting hybrid cars alongside electric vehicles. It's clear that electric cars are not yet fully prepared to dominate the industry, and a balanced approach would have ensured a smoother transition toward cleaner transportation options.

**Q3. How would you work to protect public health and safety considering our region's history of (1) industrial disasters and (2) roadway injuries and fatalities?**

A. In Houston, my commitment to protecting public health and safety in the face of our region's history of industrial disasters and roadway injuries/fatalities will involve: (1) Industrial Disasters: I will prioritize industrial safety by collaborating closely with local industries to ensure strict compliance with safety protocols and regulations. Regular safety audits and disaster preparedness drills will be encouraged. I'll also work to strengthen coordination between industry and local authorities for a more effective emergency response. (2) Roadway Injuries/Fatalities: For road safety, I'll invest in infrastructure improvements and advocate for safer road designs. Launching public awareness campaigns on responsible driving and pedestrian safety will be a priority. Law enforcement efforts to enforce traffic regulations will be supported. In Houston, we need proactive measures to prevent disasters and improve safety across our community.

**Q4. What will you do to expand the city's role in solving the climate crisis, especially for those on the frontlines exposed to extreme heat and weather events?**

A. We'll develop climate resilience plans with input from affected communities and implement heat mitigation strategies to protect vulnerable neighborhoods.

**Q5. If elected, how will you engage your constituents and ensure that impacted community members have a voice and influence in decision-making related to environmental issues?**

A. If elected, I'll engage constituents through community forums, advisory committees, and transparent communication channels. Listening tours and accessible feedback mechanisms will ensure that impacted community members have a voice in environmental decisions.



**Candidate Name:**

**KATHY LEE TATUM**

**Running for:**

**MAYOR – CHALLENGER**

**Campaign Site:**

**[WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/DRKATHYLEETATUM4HOUSTON](http://WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/DRKATHYLEETATUM4HOUSTON)**

**Q1. If you are elected, what will you do to address the impact of environmental quality (air, land, and water quality) on health? What does environmental justice mean to you?**

A. One of the subjects that I heard no one spoke about is when somebody like a developer wants to build a subdivision of a houses. Why do you have to tear down all the trees? Why is the architect not understanding how to go around the trees to keep them there and we always have to put new trees in or there's no trees at all. This affects the quality of life and backyards people should be able to enjoy their backyard in front yards with trees

**Q2. What do you think are the most effective strategies to decrease air pollution from (1) industry and (2) the transportation system?**

A. No. Batch plants. No permits, no business schools that build eco-friendly recharging stations here in Houston Police really need to do a better job and cars that you clearly can see that need a oil change and other mechanic problems each apartment complex will have air monitors more solar panels on underserved communities working on our school district buses being electric many times are CD believes that it's two different entities and not working with the county and our parks

**Q5. If elected, how will you engage your constituents and ensure that impacted community members have a voice and influence in decision-making related to environmental issues?**

A. I've been part of several initiatives. Currently I'm part of the work group of region 6 EPA. I'm part of Parks revising initiatives with MD Anderson called. Be well. building safe spaces , planting trees giving out helmets safety vest in bicycles. I'm already in the community because a founder of a non-profit called collaborating voices foundation that works with several other non-profits. So our voices are always going to be heard. I shop in our neighborhoods so many politicians. Once they become elected, you never run into them. They're not enjoying the park. They're not enjoying just being with her family being an animal loving family. You will see that doesn't need to be a special event for me to know what's going on. newly having asthma and not a career politician. I know the barriers we face

**Q3. How would you work to protect public health and safety considering our region's history of (1) industrial disasters and (2) roadway injuries and fatalities?**

A. the fact that our roads Can't even see the lines. So many streets do not have sidewalks We also have a factory that makes keychain breathalyzers for drunk driving. corporate partners not letting every single person off work at the exact same time for congestions of our road ways everybody getting off at 5:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. causes more pollution longer times on our roads but like to have more organizations with ebikes or accessibility to work for corporate people to hire those that live in the area safe routes to school. Safe routes to the bus stops Metro must upgrade to electric buses. Ditches with grass overgrown trash in there or citizens do not want to go and even help in her own community because they can't see if they're snakes

**Q4. What will you do to expand the city's role in solving the climate crisis, especially for those on the frontlines exposed to extreme heat and weather events?**

A. Our city has a lot of partnerships with non-profits that are doing the work but not often are those but one or two are brought to the table or they used two or three to just do storytelling. If this is their passion, they need to be working with the CD full-time on solutions and we need to find the funding to back. If we don't have our health or environment, what's the point of anything?



**Candidate Name:**

**ROY VASQUEZ**

**Running for:**

**MAYOR – CHALLENGER**

**Campaign Site:**

**[WWW.ROYVASQUEZFORMAYOR.COM](http://WWW.ROYVASQUEZFORMAYOR.COM)**

**10**

**Q1. If you are elected, what will you do to address the impact of environmental quality (air, land, and water quality) on health? What does environmental justice mean to you?**

A. Air: Promote clean energy adoption, support electric public transportation, enforce emissions regulations, and enhance air quality monitoring. Land: Encourage sustainable urban development, create more green spaces, and address food deserts to improve overall well-being. Water: Invest in water treatment, implement pollution reduction measures, and develop flood control systems to ensure safe drinking water and reduce water contamination risks. Environmental justice is making sure everyone, regardless of where they live or how much they make, gets treated fairly when it comes to things like clean air/water and a healthy place to live. Sometimes, certain neighborhoods, especially those with lower-incomes, have to deal with more pollution/unhealthy conditions. The Mayor should work to fix this by making sure everyone has the same chance to breathe clean air and drink clean water. This also means listening to the people who are most affected by these problems and making decisions that help them.

**Q2. What do you think are the most effective strategies to decrease air pollution from (1) industry and (2) the transportation system?**

A. 1) Reducing air pollution from factories and big businesses in Houston requires enforcement of emissions regulations, especially for facilities near residential areas. We also need to encourage and incentivize the adoption of cleaner technologies and processes. And it's important that the citizens know what is being put into the air; providing public access to emissions data promotes accountability and awareness. Working together with these businesses, we can make sure they're doing their part to keep the air clean. 2) We can do a few things to deal with air pollution from vehicles. We can promote electric vehicles through incentives and expand charging stations/infrastructure. I would work to enhance Metro, making further reaching and safer. I would encourage and promote carpooling, ridesharing, biking, etc. By executing on these, along with other initiatives, we can make the air in Houston cleaner and healthier for everyone.

**Q5. If elected, how will you engage your constituents and ensure that impacted community members have a voice and influence in decision-making related to environmental issues?**

A. To ensure that Houston's people have a meaningful role in shaping environmental decisions, I would regularly hold community-led forums and town hall meetings to provide platforms for residents to voice their concerns directly to city officials. I think we could develop an interactive online platform/mobile app that enables residents to report environmental issues, access data, and participate in virtual town halls. Additionally, I would establish citizen advisory boards consisting of residents, experts, and environmental advocates to offer valuable recommendations and input on environmental policies. We could also collaborate with local schools and organizations to promote citizen science programs, engaging residents in data collection and research activities. I would also like to employ more technology like Geographic Information Systems to map environmental disparities, guiding targeted interventions in underserved areas.

**Q3. How would you work to protect public health and safety considering our region's history of (1) industrial disasters and (2) roadway injuries and fatalities?**

A. 1) For industrial disaster preparedness, I will enforce stringent regulations and regular inspections for facilities handling hazardous materials to minimize risks. Emergency response capabilities will be bolstered through frequent drills and enhanced coordination among first responders. Educating our residents is also a huge piece. We need to educate those living near industrial zones about emergency procedures, evacuation routes, and safety precautions to enhance their readiness. 2) For road safety, we will invest in infrastructure enhancements, including improved signage, pedestrian crosswalks, and ROAD MAINTENANCE, to reduce accidents. There's also a lot of research on Smart traffic management systems that show they reduce accidents - I'd like to implement that here to alleviate congestion and reduce accidents. Again, I think education plays a part with public awareness campaigns to promote safe driving practices and traffic rules. Also continue to expand and improve our pedestrian and cyclist safety with dedicated lanes and pathways.

**Q4. What will you do to expand the city's role in solving the climate crisis, especially for those on the frontlines exposed to extreme heat and weather events?**

A. I feel like we're so far behind some other cities in what we're currently doing. To me, that just means we have so many options to implement to try to improve it. Green Infrastructure: Invest in green roofs, permeable pavements, and living walls to absorb rainwater, mitigate heat, and boost urban resilience. Cool Roofs: Promote cool roofing materials and reflective coatings to combat urban heat island effects. Renewable Microgrids: Develop clean energy microgrids to supply critical facilities during extreme weather, bolstering resilience. Climate-Resilient Housing: Encourage climate-resistant housing construction, especially in low-income areas, to withstand heat and flooding. Climate Innovation Districts: Create zones for testing and scaling up climate solutions through collaboration with startups and research institutions.

**Candidate Name:****JOHN WHITMIRE****Running for:****MAYOR – CHALLENGER****Campaign Site:****WWW.JOHNWHITMIRE.COM****Q1. If you are elected, what will you do to address the impact of environmental quality (air, land, and water quality) on health? What does environmental justice mean to you?**

A. Environmental justice means that no one community should suffer unfairly from issues like pollution. For too long, we have allowed our low-income and minority communities to shoulder the burden of facilities like landfills placed in their neighborhoods. Look at the people who have become ill from the Union Pacific's creosote plume in the Fifth Ward. In 2019, I helped stop a concrete batch plant that was planned for the Acres Homes community across the street from a park. I called it "a shameful attempt to permit a plant next to our residents and in our neighborhood." I testified before the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, which too often sides with business over people. I told them "We need to show people that we are responsive, and quite frankly, this agency is controversial. You have an opportunity to restore faith in this agency." The owner withdrew his application

**Q2. What do you think are the most effective strategies to decrease air pollution from (1) industry and (2) the transportation system?**

A. For industry, environmental laws need to be enforced. Frankly, the TCEQ does not do a good job protecting our residents. We need more monitoring of air pollution so we know the extent of the problem. For transportation, obviously we need to reduce vehicle emissions. Metro should focus on a transit system that connects residents and gets them to where they need to be for work, school, medical visits and other activities. Metro should also explore more HOV express buses, which are relatively inexpensive and move at faster speeds compared to other forms of public transit and it should look at adding circulating buses in job centers to get commuters closer to their final destinations.

**Q3. How would you work to protect public health and safety considering our region's history of (1) industrial disasters and (2) roadway injuries and fatalities?**

A. Industry generally falls under the purview of the state and federal government. I will be an advocate for our community to see that those agencies are living up to their responsibilities. There is no doubt we need to improve our streets. Houston's traffic problems have many causes and will require many solutions. Building more sidewalks. Designing streets with safety as a priority—to control vehicle speeds and to allow drivers to be able to see other vehicles, pedestrians and bikers. To resolve traffic issues, we need long range planning and cooperation among all the governments and agencies in the region.

**Q4. What will you do to expand the city's role in solving the climate crisis, especially for those on the frontlines exposed to extreme heat and weather events?**

A. It's not a matter of "if" but "when" another devastating weather event hits Houston. We need to be ready. I will place a greater emphasis on our OEM office and ensure that it is fully staffed and ready for an emergency. We need to have in place plans to coordinate with our many nonprofits like the Red Cross that provide help to Houstonians in need. We need to ensure that we reach out to all our residents with information in their language. And I am the only candidate who can reach out to our state officials in the middle of the night to get help sent to Houston immediately. We need to continue promoting green building, electric cars, recycling, planting more trees and protecting workers who often are laboring under extreme weather conditions.

**Q5. If elected, how will you engage your constituents and ensure that impacted community members have a voice and influence in decision-making related to environmental issues?**

A. I will listen. I will ensure our government is transparent. I will appoint citizen representatives to boards and commissions. I will make City Councilmembers real partners in governing and empower them to work with our city departments to solve issues. If a Councilmember has an idea on how to fix a problem affecting their constituents, then they can take on that problem and work with city employees to solve it. The priority in my Senate office has always been constituent services. When someone comes to us with a problem, we don't send them to another government agency; we work with them to find a solution to their problem. That's how it will be in the Whitmire Administration.



**Candidate Name:**

**ROBIN WILLIAMS**

**Running for:**

**MAYOR – CHALLENGER**

**Campaign Site:**

**[WWW.ROBINWILLIAMSFORMAYOR.COM](http://WWW.ROBINWILLIAMSFORMAYOR.COM)**

**12**

**Q1. If you are elected, what will you do to address the impact of environmental quality (air, land, and water quality) on health? What does environmental justice mean to you?**

A: I will appoint an environmental scientist who can lead our city in the right direction. Environmental justice is the act of providing equal treatment.

**Q2. What do you think are the most effective strategies to decrease air pollution from (1) industry and (2) the transportation system?**

A. The reduction of refineries and emission gases will result in a decrease in air pollution. My goal is to make public transportation systems green.

**Q3. How would you work to protect public health and safety considering our region's history of (1) industrial disasters and (2) roadway injuries and fatalities?**

A. It is my intention to prohibit the construction of low-income apartments on soil that causes cancer. While making public transit more attractive.

**Q4. What will you do to expand the city's role in solving the climate crisis, especially for those on the frontlines exposed to extreme heat and weather events?**

A. First responders, construction workers, and anyone who works in the elements will have medical, water and cooling breaks provided. Safety is my concern

**Q5. If elected, how will you engage your constituents and ensure that impacted community members have a voice and influence in decision-making related to environmental issues?**

A. My aim is to establish an organization that focuses on teaching the community about climate control. Ensuring that the residents have an outlet.



**Candidate Name:**

**ERIQ C. GLENN**

**Running for:**

**CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE 1 - CHALLENGER**

**Campaign Site:**

**WWW.ERIQGLENN.COM**

**13**

**Q1. If you are elected, what will you do to address the impact of environmental quality (air, land, and water quality) on health? What does environmental justice mean to you?**

A. If elected, I'll champion policies to enhance Houston's environmental quality, understanding its direct link to health. I'll invest in green infrastructure, reduce emissions, and ensure water quality. To me, environmental justice means every community, regardless of socio-economic status, deserves a clean environment. I'll address disparities, ensuring all benefit from our environmental policies.

**Q2. What do you think are the most effective strategies to decrease air pollution from (1) industry and (2) the transportation system?**

A. The most effective thing a council member can do is to decrease air pollution from industry and the transportation 1. Providing educational workshops to industries about the benefits of sustainable practices and provide training on new, cleaner technologies. 2. Design cities to be more walkable and bike-friendly, reducing the reliance on cars.

**Q5. If elected, how will you engage your constituents and ensure that impacted community members have a voice and influence in decision-making related to environmental issues?**

A. If elected, I'll prioritize residents' concerns through a Constituent's Bill of Rights. I pledge to return calls on environmental matters within 24 hours and will personally attend super neighborhood meetings to understand firsthand the community's environmental challenges. My open-door policy ensures direct accessibility, making certain that community voices shape decision-making on environmental issues.

**Q3. How would you work to protect public health and safety considering our region's history of (1) industrial disasters and (2) roadway injuries and fatalities?**

A. To mitigate industrial risks, we'll strengthen regulations, increase inspections, and adopt safety technologies. For road safety, we'll upgrade infrastructure, enforce traffic laws, run awareness campaigns, and enhance pedestrian and cyclist areas. Collaboration among stakeholders is crucial for comprehensive safety measures.

**Q4. What will you do to expand the city's role in solving the climate crisis, especially for those on the frontlines exposed to extreme heat and weather events?**

A. I will prioritize urban greenery, invest in resilient infrastructure, support renewable energy initiatives, and develop emergency preparedness programs tailored to vulnerable populations, ensuring they're safeguarded against extreme weather events and heat exposure.



**Candidate Name:**

**MELANIE MILES**

**Running for:**

**CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE 1 - CHALLENGER**

**Campaign Site:**

**WWW.MILESFORHOUSTON.COM**

14

**Q1. If you are elected, what will you do to address the impact of environmental quality (air, land, and water quality) on health? What does environmental justice mean to you?**

A. Environmental justice, to me, means ensuring that all residents, regardless of their background or where they live, have the right to clean air, safe water, and healthy land. To address these concerns, I will work to develop and implement policies that reduce air pollution, protect water quality, and promote sustainable land use practices. This includes advocating for stricter emissions standards, supporting renewable energy initiatives, and enhancing public transportation options to reduce air pollution. I will also champion policies that protect our water sources, promote green infrastructure, and address flooding issues. Furthermore, I will engage with these organizations and communities to ensure that their voices are heard and their concerns are addressed in the decision-making process. Together, we can achieve environmental justice by creating a more equitable and sustainable Houston where everyone can enjoy a healthier quality of life.

**Q2. What do you think are the most effective strategies to decrease air pollution from (1) industry and (2) the transportation system?**

A. To decrease air pollution from industry, implementing robust emissions regulations and holding companies accountable for compliance is essential. Strengthening enforcement mechanisms, regularly updating emission standards, and incentivizing cleaner technologies can drive industry towards greater environmental responsibility. For the transportation system, promoting sustainable mobility solutions is key. Expanding public transit, investing in electric and hybrid vehicles, and incentivizing carpooling and cycling can reduce emissions. Implementing stricter vehicle emissions standards and encouraging the adoption of electric vehicles will also play a crucial role. Additionally, fostering mixed-use urban planning to reduce commute distances and prioritizing green infrastructure can further alleviate air pollution. Public education on the benefits of sustainable transportation choices is vital for long-term success. Collaborating with organizations like BikeHouston and LINK Houston will be instrumental in developing and implementing these strategies effectively.

**Q5. If elected, how will you engage your constituents and ensure that impacted community members have a voice and influence in decision-making related to environmental issues?**

A. If elected, I will prioritize robust community engagement to ensure that impacted community members have a meaningful voice in environmental decision-making. This will involve regular town hall meetings, community forums, and listening sessions where residents can express their concerns and ideas. I will establish advisory committees comprising diverse community stakeholders, including environmental organizations, frontline communities, and experts, to provide input on environmental policies and projects. Collaboration with organizations like Air Alliance Houston, Bayou City Waterkeeper, BikeHouston, CEER, and LINK Houston will be integral to this process. Furthermore, I will advocate for transparency in decision-making, making environmental data and policy proposals easily accessible to the public. By actively involving constituents and prioritizing their input, we can ensure that environmental policies are rooted in community needs and aspirations, fostering a more equitable and sustainable future for Houston.

**Q3. How would you work to protect public health and safety considering our region's history of (1) industrial disasters and (2) roadway injuries and fatalities?**

A. Firstly, I will advocate for stringent safety regulations and oversight for industries, emphasizing the prevention of disasters through proper training, equipment maintenance, and emergency response planning. Collaborating with organizations like Air Alliance Houston and Bayou City Waterkeeper will help in monitoring and enforcing these regulations effectively. Secondly, addressing roadway injuries and fatalities involves investing in safer infrastructure, promoting responsible driving behaviors, and enhancing public transportation options. I will support infrastructure improvements that prioritize pedestrian safety, cycling lanes, and efficient public transit. Additionally, launching public awareness campaigns and working with organizations like BikeHouston and LINK Houston can help raise awareness and reduce road accidents. By combining strict industrial safety measures with comprehensive transportation safety initiatives, we can mitigate the risks associated with industrial disasters and road injuries, ensuring a safer and healthier environment for all residents.

**Q4. What will you do to expand the city's role in solving the climate crisis, especially for those on the frontlines exposed to extreme heat and weather events?**

A. To address the climate crisis and protect those on the frontlines, I will advocate for bold climate action and resilience strategies. This includes supporting renewable energy initiatives, enhancing green infrastructure, and promoting energy efficiency measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Collaborating with organizations like the Coalition for Environment, Equity, and Resilience (CEER) will help ensure that climate policies prioritize the most vulnerable communities. Additionally, I will work to create climate-resilient neighborhoods through sustainable urban planning and equitable access to green spaces. This will involve investments in cooling centers, improved flood management, and public awareness campaigns about extreme heat risks. Overall, I am committed to making Houston a leader in climate mitigation and adaptation, ensuring that all residents, especially those on the frontlines of climate impacts, have the tools and support they need to thrive in the face of environmental challenges.





**Candidate Name:**

**LEAH WOLFTHAL**

**Running for:**

**CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE 1 – CHALLENGER**

**Campaign Site:**

**WWW.LEAHFORHOUSTON.COM**

**15**

**Q1. If you are elected, what will you do to address the impact of environmental quality (air, land, and water quality) on health? What does environmental justice mean to you?**

A. I will work to support the community's voice and concerns being heard and addressed, especially by liaising between residents, advocates, and other key stakeholders (e.g. companies, state regulators, permit reviewers, frontline staff) to open doors and support facilitation of deep, honest, and solution-oriented conversations. We all deserve to live in surroundings that are safe and healthy for us. Public health / environmental concerns I've heard include concerns about concrete batch plants, illegal dumping, carcinogens and asthma-inducing particles especially in the northeast corridor, brownfields, risk of flooding, lead in homes and pipes, sewage leaks, food deserts, access to clean water, and to resources (economic and otherwise) to prepare for and mitigate disasters.

**Q2. What do you think are the most effective strategies to decrease air pollution from (1) industry and (2) the transportation system?**

A. We can invest more in our public transit system, including considering multimodal options as relevant during road upgrades and new investments in neighborhood infrastructure. In terms of industry, and we can enhance monitoring, testing, and engagement when neighbors raise concerns such as on nearby concrete batch or petrochem plants. I'm certified as a mediator and trained in deep conflict transformation tools; my approach is to bring stakeholders together (including concerned residents, advocates that may be involved, company leadership, and frontline workers), to arrive at a shared understanding of problems, work to rebuild trust and transparency, and identify pathways and solutions forward.

**Q5. If elected, how will you engage your constituents and ensure that impacted community members have a voice and influence in decision-making related to environmental issues?**

A. Across many neighborhoods and many issues, community members and stakeholders feel too often that their voice isn't heard and doesn't matter. I will work to build mechanisms and systems for more transparent, regular, and functional opportunities for discussion. For example, this might look like notice of meetings on key issues shared through communication methods used by residents and other impacted parties (e.g. not just a website, but also WhatsApp groups or other social media and texting tools as relevant). Notice of meetings should be shared with community members early enough in advance that residents can set aside time to attend, and that these meetings don't just appear to be an afterthought while decisions were already made behind closed doors. Meetings should be held at times that make it easier for more residents to attend (e.g. evening/weekend options), and communication should be in relevant languages.

**Q3. How would you work to protect public health and safety considering our region's history of (1) industrial disasters and (2) roadway injuries and fatalities?**

A. I look forward to learning more about best practices in terms of industrial disasters. Some of the approaches I've heard include, in terms of early detection/prevention of chemical disasters, is increasing air quality monitoring during times when fewer staff may be present at plants (e.g. weekends, evenings). In terms of roadway injuries and fatalities, we can work to implement some of the tools as relevant from the Vision Zero plan and utilizing the High Injury Network map analysis. These tools identify intersections and areas that have higher likelihood of fatalities, and in comparison with similar intersections or areas with fewer fatalities, identify modifications that might reduce deaths. These modifications might include improved lighting, improved signage, and more clearly delineated crosswalks, for example.

**Q4. What will you do to expand the city's role in solving the climate crisis, especially for those on the frontlines exposed to extreme heat and weather events?**

A. Our region's chamber of commerce has identified "energy transition" as a critical part in adding jobs into the region. The business-based analysis of the strategic initiative ("HETI") is that if Houston becomes a champion of energy transition, this will attract significant investment, whereas conducting "business as usual" will lead to the opposite. If we hustle to acquire federal funds through grant-writing and lobbying, we can well-position our city and region to thrive along multiple indicators. In terms of frontline workers, I support workers joining together to advocate for what they need to be safe and protected from extreme working conditions. From an elected official role, this can mean making sure that frontline workers feel safe to discuss, and organize on issues that are important to them, without fear of retribution. This also means meeting with frontline workers to hear their perspectives, and facilitating solution-finding between them and other key stakeholders.



**Candidate Name:**

**MARINA ANGELICA CORYCAT**

**16**

**Running for:**

**CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE 2 - CHALLENGER**

**Campaign Site:**

**WWW.MARINAFORHOUSTON.COM**

**Q1. If you are elected, what will you do to address the impact of environmental quality (air, land, and water quality) on health? What does environmental justice mean to you?**

A. Environmental justice means to me that ALL people, regardless of race or other backgrounds can enjoy the benefits of living in a clean healthy environment. I will advocate for the City of Houston to continue to make strategic purchases with vehicles that reduce emissions and advocate for businesses to be mindful of emissions from their buildings and vehicles. I will fight against concrete batch plants and landfills near communities that have historically been plagued by these type of businesses. I will advocate for the City to get federal funding, public-private partnerships and other grants to clean up brownfields and reinvest into these neighborhoods. We need to continue to educate the community about environmental quality. I would I will make this a component of town halls and my tv program/social media that I will have to share information with constituents.

**Q2. What do you think are the most effective strategies to decrease air pollution from (1) industry and (2) the transportation system?**

A. For industry, I would recommend planting more trees around facilities and investing in trees in the communities around them. Additionally, by reducing our carbon foot print through recycling, having green buildings, energy sourcing will also help. For transportation system to decrease air pollution, use mass transportation such as the rail or buses, or carpooling. The best ways to decrease air pollution and get exercise is to walk or bike to locations.

**Q5. If elected, how will you engage your constituents and ensure that impacted community members have a voice and influence in decision-making related to environmental issues?**

A. I will always make sure that impacted community members are informed about any City of Houston decisions that personally affect them. Our citizens who are impacted by these environmental issues must have a voice. For example, I will engage community members through networking, community meetings, neighborhood news sources, newsletters, social media, and podcasts in addition to broadcast media (TV and radio).

**Q3. How would you work to protect public health and safety considering our region's history of (1) industrial disasters and (2) roadway injuries and fatalities?**

A. The City's Houston Fire Department (HFD) Hazardous Materials Team is dedicated to hazmat response and other hazmat duties. I will make sure that this team has the tools needed to protect public health and safety. Highway signage in the Houston area needs to be improved. Motorists often complain about incorrect or confusing signs that have led to accidents. The City should work with the state to improve these signs, which will make our highways safer. I would also prioritize activating all of Houston's dynamic message signs. They are intended to relay traffic information and emergency details to drivers. So far, only 36 of the 91 dynamic message signs are online. Houston's protected bicycle lanes are a great idea that provides a new transportation option. But I want to make sure that there is enough information so that automobile drivers know how to drive them, especially in downtown Houston.

**Q4. What will you do to expand the city's role in solving the climate crisis, especially for those on the frontlines exposed to extreme heat and weather events?**

A. This past summer was the hottest on record in the city of Houston, so this is a very important question. To protect workers from extreme heat, we should modify work schedules and arrange frequent rest periods with water breaks in shaded or air-conditioned areas. We should also train workers to be proactive, teaching them how to protect themselves in heat stress environments. We must continue to plant trees and provide safe places for our employees and residents to go in case of emergencies.



**Candidate Name:**

**NICK HELLYAR**

**17**

**Running for:**

**CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE 2 – CHALLENGER**

**Campaign Site:**

**WWW.NICKHELLYAR.COM**

**Q1. If you are elected, what will you do to address the impact of environmental quality (air, land, and water quality) on health? What does environmental justice mean to you?**

A. As a former interim executive director and board member of Bike Houston, I strongly believe we must do more to ensure we are protecting the environment, and crucially so, in a way that is equitable and fair to Houston's diverse tapestry of communities. To do this we must use all the tools we have in our tool box. We must work to create an inclusive infrastructure that accommodates lower emission modes of transportation, increase the energy efficiency of the city's facilities, preference renewable sources of energy over dirty alternatives, and limit industrial pollution to save ourselves and our children from a wide variety of health risks. Furthermore we must be vigilant in providing a skeptical eye to projects that deepen the physical infrastructural barriers within marginalized communities (such as free way expansions).

**Q2. What do you think are the most effective strategies to decrease air pollution from (1) industry and (2) the transportation system?**

A. Under current law, industrial plants, land fills, metal recycling facilities, amongst others, are often legal to build directly next to residential areas. Nearby communities can find themselves afflicted with health issues due to poor air quality and noise pollution. The city can fix this with rules that ensure there is an adequate buffer between industrial uses and residential areas. (2) Much of our air pollution emerges from our mono modal transportation system. When the only option is driving, people have to drive more as buildings are pushed further and further apart to accommodate larger and larger parking lots. Addressing our climate needs requires us to create a transportation system that truly works for everyone. That means one where walking, biking, and taking transit are genuinely viable options that are available to people.

**Q3. How would you work to protect public health and safety considering our region's history of (1) industrial disasters and (2) roadway injuries and fatalities?**

A. Avoiding industrial disasters will require us to take a collaborative approach. We must work with our federal and regional partners to ensure that the industry in our area is fully complying with the existing safety and environmental standards in place. (2) The city's Vision Zero plan commits our city to a goal of zero transportation deaths and major injuries by 2030. To meet this important goal, we must use every opportunity we have to create streets that are safe for all modes of transportation. As the former interim director of Bike Houston and someone who makes many of his trips on his bike and on foot, I know how our infrastructure can often not adequately take into account the needs of certain users. In office, I will fight to make sure all needs are addressed in our transportation system.

**Q4. What will you do to expand the city's role in solving the climate crisis, especially for those on the frontlines exposed to extreme heat and weather events?**

A. The climate crisis is a real and crucially important issue that the city has a key role in addressing. Flooding remains a significant threat for many parts of our city, and increasingly, periods of extreme heat are commonplace. To address flooding, we must make sure we fully fund and commit ourselves to completing our planned flood mitigation projects and as well the full extent of drainage improvements required to keep Houstonians safe. Furthermore, we must work to preserve and expand our green spaces, which act as a crucial mechanism for flood mitigation. As it pertains to our heat issues, an integral step to protecting Houstonians is making sure we have adequate tree coverage on our green strips and near our sidewalks. Adding trees to an area can significantly reduce surface temperatures and provide protection against the elements.

**Q5. If elected, how will you engage your constituents and ensure that impacted community members have a voice and influence in decision-making related to environmental issues?**

A. If elected, I will prioritize active, consistent engagement with Houstonians on environmental issues, utilizing town halls, social media, and community forums to ensure inclusivity. I believe it's crucial we bring a wide variety of perspectives to the table. Houston's resilience and environmental health will be a collective endeavor, and I'm committed to fostering collaboration between community members and environmental experts to address environmental challenges and advance sustainable, equitable solutions.



**Candidate Name:**

**OBIOHA "OBES" NWABARA**

**Running for:**

**CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE 2 - CHALLENGER**

**Campaign Site:**

**WWW.OBESFORTWO.COM**

18

**Q1. If you are elected, what will you do to address the impact of environmental quality (air, land, and water quality) on health? What does environmental justice mean to you?**

A. The most important thing I can do is push for fines and restrictions on companies and people who pollute our city. This includes eliminating the cancer clusters in Fifth Ward. Environmental justice is defined by the EPA as the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income. To me, this means everyone should have access to clean and safe living conditions in and outside of their homes.

**Q2. What do you think are the most effective strategies to decrease air pollution from (1) industry and (2) the transportation system?**

A. We've got to increase our mass transit which will remove cars from the road and dramatically reduce air pollution. We also have to hold the corporations in our city responsible for the amount of pollutants they put in the air. This can't just mean fines, it must also mean real sanctions that affect the way they do business if they continue to pollute.

**Q5. If elected, how will you engage your constituents and ensure that impacted community members have a voice and influence in decision-making related to environmental issues?**

A. We will have quarterly town halls all over the city, and in those town halls we will take note of the concerns of those who are most affected by environmental issues in addition to listening to any potential solutions they may have. We will also hold public hearings and invite the public so they are a part of the decision making process.

**Q3. How would you work to protect public health and safety considering our region's history of (1) industrial disasters and (2) roadway injuries and fatalities?**

A. It starts with making those who have already been affected by industrial disasters whole, as the city needs to regain that trust. Once we have that, we need to work with experts on roadway injuries and fatalities to see what we can do to reduce these instances, aside from increasing public transit to remove cars from the road in the first place.

**Q4. What will you do to expand the city's role in solving the climate crisis, especially for those on the frontlines exposed to extreme heat and weather events?**

A. Proposition B (Fair For Houston), will allow the city/county to attempt to renegotiate its representation on the Houston Galveston Area Council. With this new control, we can use federal funding to better fight climate change in the region and get more resources to those who desperately need it.



**Candidate Name:**

**HOLLY FLYNN VILASECA**

19

**Running for:**

**CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE 2 – CHALLENGER**

**Campaign Site:**

**WWW.HOLLYFORHOUSTON.COM**

**Q1. If you are elected, what will you do to address the impact of environmental quality (air, land, and water quality) on health? What does environmental justice mean to you?**

A. In order to create green communities and address the pressing issue of climate change, it is important to focus on reducing and eliminating emissions. As a committed advocate for climate equity, I will actively support programs that work towards bringing down carbon emissions. Additionally, I will prioritize efforts to preserve and uplift our city's natural habitats, while also creating more green spaces for our community to enjoy. It is crucial to ensure that black and brown neighborhoods have equal access to the benefits of climate action and environmental initiatives. To achieve this, we must continue implementing the comprehensive Climate Action Plan and Resiliency Plan proposed by the COH. Collaboration with Harris County and Metro on their respective Climate Action Plans will further amplify our efforts in reducing our collective carbon footprint.

**Q2. What do you think are the most effective strategies to decrease air pollution from (1) industry and (2) the transportation system?**

A. We must take proactive measures that go beyond mere band-aid solutions. One such approach is the establishment of a robust community-based air monitoring network. This network should be designed to target the specific air quality concerns faced by neighborhoods that are most vulnerable to pollution. By involving partners from within the community itself, we can ensure the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of this initiative. Eliminating pollution necessitates a holistic approach that encompasses various aspects of our daily lives. From a transportation standpoint, opting for fuel-efficient vehicles and actively promoting the use of mass transit can significantly contribute to reducing harmful emissions. Electrification of city vehicles and buses and encouraging and creating connected bike and walking paths are vital. Additionally, businesses and industries must also play their part in mitigating air pollution by collaborating with local governments to create and maintain safe and clean communities.

**Q5. If elected, how will you engage your constituents and ensure that impacted community members have a voice and influence in decision-making related to environmental issues?**

A. Public engagement in promoting sustainability and safeguarding the environment holds immense significance. As a member of the council, it will be my utmost priority to provide our community with comprehensive information that enables them to understand the intricacies, choices, and remedies involved. I will actively encourage public participation to ensure that their concerns are taken into account at every stage of the decision-making process, especially when formulating climate strategies for their respective neighborhoods. A key aspect of my approach will be collaborating closely with the public to establish decision-making criteria and explore alternative solutions, ultimately reaching a consensus that aligns with the specific needs and aspirations of our community. I will hold town halls, conduct surveys, meet the community where they are and my door will always be open to information exchange and discussion.

**Q3. How would you work to protect public health and safety considering our region's history of (1) industrial disasters and (2) roadway injuries and fatalities?**

A. I will enhance the City of Houston's ability to mitigate the negative impacts of industrial and roadway disasters to promote the resilience of individuals, and communities. I plan to implement the following strategies: 1. Emphasize the collection of relevant biomarker and other health-related data before and after disasters occur in order to establish a baseline for evaluation. 2. Strengthen the capacity of First responders to effectively handle disaster situations. 3. Expand the scope of disaster response and relief efforts to include the displacement of affected individuals. 5. Actively collaborate with departments to identify areas that require additional support in alignment with the COH Vision Zero Plan. 6. Implement policies to conduct annual inspections of high-speed areas to assess the need for speed bumps and lower speed limits. 7. Continuously review and adjust our plans, I will strive to make impactful changes that contribute to a safer and more secure community.

**Q4. What will you do to expand the city's role in solving the climate crisis, especially for those on the frontlines exposed to extreme heat and weather events?**

A. Local governments have the ability to take proactive measures to mitigate the vulnerability of residents, infrastructure, and systems to heat. These actions can be both responsive to immediate extreme heat events and part of a long-term strategy to reduce the affects on our frontline workers. Local officials can establish early warning systems and create urban cooling centers to protect people's health from the acute effects of extreme heat. They can also raise awareness about risk factors, symptoms of heat-related illnesses, and when and how to seek treatment. Implementing energy efficiency measures is another effective way to minimize disruptions in city services and alleviate stress on electricity systems during heat waves. Additional strategies include, implementing green or cool roofs, cool pavements, and increasing vegetation and trees in urban areas. These cooling measures have the potential to significantly reduce the impact of extreme heat events on public health and urban systems.



**Candidate Name:**

**CASEY CURRY**

**20**

**Running for:**

**CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE 3 – CHALLENGER**

**Campaign Site:**

**WWW.CASEYCURRYFORHOUSTON.COM**

**Q1. If you are elected, what will you do to address the impact of environmental quality (air, land, and water quality) on health? What does environmental justice mean to you?**

A. I will OWN deferred maintenance! We all remember the city-wide boil water notice last Fall. That failure at the East Water Purification Plant was due to deferred maintenance. This is unacceptable. We must shift the balance from reactive to preventative maintenance. Let's start by prioritizing projects with the greatest health and safety risks. These projects must be approved and tracked. Our public works directors must be held accountable for this process. Environmental justice means treating ALL people fairly and involving ALL people in the decision-making process about how we develop and implement policies that impact ALL our communities. We must expand this view to include more than environmental hazards (air quality, water quality, etc), but also health hazards (communicable disease, access to healthy food, etc).

**Q2. What do you think are the most effective strategies to decrease air pollution from (1) industry and (2) the transportation system?**

A. There is much work to be done to mitigate the current risk and prevent future risk from industrial (or other) disasters. One step we can take today is ensure we have a comprehensive plan of action for our most vulnerable. I am a member of the disability community (I am hearing impaired) and recently moderated a mayoral forum with Coalition for Barrier Free Living. Residents expressed their frustration with lack of knowledge and preparedness for their community if/when disaster strikes. I will work with the community, Harris County and others to create a comprehensive plan that addresses these needs and work to ensure people know about the plan before we need it. Roadway deaths and injuries are on the rise, due to many different factors. Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for American teens. Part of the solution lies in education.

**Q5. If elected, how will you engage your constituents and ensure that impacted community members have a voice and influence in decision-making related to environmental issues?**

A. Right now, the burden is on the communities and the constituents to know what is happening, find out the information and then speak up for themselves. I will flip that script. It is our job as council members to keep on top of issues, regularly and systematically inform and engage with community members and ensure those impacted have a seat the table for decision making.

**Q3. How would you work to protect public health and safety considering our region's history of (1) industrial disasters and (2) roadway injuries and fatalities?**

A. There is much work to be done to mitigate the current risk and prevent future risk from industrial (or other) disasters. One step we can take today is ensure we have a comprehensive plan of action for our most vulnerable. I am a member of the disability community (I am hearing impaired) and recently moderated a mayoral forum with Coalition for Barrier Free Living. Residents expressed their frustration with lack of knowledge and preparedness for their community if/when disaster strikes. I will work with the community, Harris County and others to create a comprehensive plan that addresses these needs and work to ensure people know about the plan before we need it. Roadway deaths and injuries are on the rise, due to many different factors. Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for American teens. Part of the solution lies in education.

**Q4. What will you do to expand the city's role in solving the climate crisis, especially for those on the frontlines exposed to extreme heat and weather events?**

A. We need to ensure that the funding intended for our area is delivered to the City. I will work with the new mayor to mend our broken relationship with the State on this issue. In addition, we must address our representation at HGAC to ensure the City receives proportional representation (and funding). This is my area of expertise – and while there is no one-size fits all program for our City, there is much work to be done including focusing on infrastructure maintenance, incorporating green solutions, recoupment of intended funds and attention to our most vulnerable neighborhoods. The Community Disaster Resilience Zones Act (CDRZ). CDRZ will help build disaster resilience by identifying the communities most vulnerable to natural hazards is an opportunity to work with stakeholders to identify the disadvantaged communities most at-risk to natural hazards.



**Candidate Name:**  
**ETHAN MICHELLE GANZ**

**21**

**Running for:**  
**CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE 3 – CHALLENGER**  
**Campaign Site:**  
**WWW.GANZ4HOU.COM**

**Q1. If you are elected, what will you do to address the impact of environmental quality (air, land, and water quality) on health? What does environmental justice mean to you?**

A. I will call out polluters and work to hold them accountable. I will also address many issues that affect people disproportionately, like housing. Environmental justice means equity. Environmental justice means that we uplift the most marginalized and we address issues that have been historically created by excluding certain groups of people. Also, many neighborhoods need more trees!

**Q2. What do you think are the most effective strategies to decrease air pollution from (1) industry and (2) the transportation system?**

A. We must hold polluters accountable. We must build a better and efficient public transportation system with lots of safe paths for multi modal types of transportation.

**Q3. How would you work to protect public health and safety considering our region's history of (1) industrial disasters and (2) roadway injuries and fatalities?**

A. We must do everything we can to address the causes of industrial disasters, such as companies not taking care of equipment correctly. We must work towards vision zero for reducing roadway injuries and fatalities. We need to create better roadways and safer paths for multi modal transportation.

**Q4. What will you do to expand the city's role in solving the climate crisis, especially for those on the frontlines exposed to extreme heat and weather events?**

A. My issues of housing, infrastructure, and transportation all relate to the climate crisis and lead to the resiliency of individuals as we try to navigate it. But beyond helping individuals we need to be holding polluters accountable. As a pipefitter, I have seen what happens as normal business. I understand that we need to find better ways to hold polluters accountable. There are areas in this city that deserve environmental justice and I will uplift their voices and help them in any way possible. Another thing we need to do is to stop hindering the helpers, one of the easiest ways to do this is to stop criminalizing Food Not Bombs for feeding people, and repeal the feeding ordinance. Also, I am really big on trees, we need more trees and natural vegetation all over the city.

**Q5. If elected, how will you engage your constituents and ensure that impacted community members have a voice and influence in decision-making related to environmental issues?**

A. I am a community organizer and I work in the field. I am accustomed to going to the people in their neighborhoods and asking them questions. I intend on spending more time in the field than in the office, I am not an office person. I will have all kinds of community events and listening tours, but I will also do block walks, so that I can talk to as many people as possible. Community engagement is a strong point of mine. I will continue to uplift the people's voice, as I have always done. I will also educate folks on how to advocate for themselves, because the more people I have behind me, the better.



**Candidate Name:**

**ERICKA MCCRUTHEON**

**22**

**Running for:**

**CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE 3 – CHALLENGER**

**Campaign Site:**

**WWW.ERICKAFORHOUSTON.COM**

**Q1. If you are elected, what will you do to address the impact of environmental quality (air, land, and water quality) on health? What does environmental justice mean to you?**

A. Environmental steward is vital to the existence of all people. Humans must live on land, have good water and air. Thus, it is everyone's responsibility to steward our environment making sure that it remains inhabitable. I will champion private and public partnership for funding for cleanups and improvement for air and water quality. Seek out new technologies that can help facilitate cleaner industrial manufacturing etc. industries and enhance education and community awareness of the importance of properly disposing waste and to minimize air emissions.

**Q2. What do you think are the most effective strategies to decrease air pollution from (1) industry and (2) the transportation system?**

A. I think new technologies, planting trees and retaining green spaces are important. I will encourage communities to nurture this environment in their own communities motivating Civic pride as well as a clean environment.

**Q3. How would you work to protect public health and safety considering our region's history of (1) industrial disasters and (2) roadway injuries and fatalities?**

A. Everything starts with education, along with facilities upgrades, and technology's advancement can help lessen industrial disasters. Great strides have been made in the auto industries to help drivers be safe and minimize fatalities. I will continue to support common-sense measure for safety and encourage social media campaigns to educate the public about safe driving. Getting every part of public sectors involved in public safety is most important because this is everyone's concern.

**Q4. What will you do to expand the city's role in solving the climate crisis, especially for those on the frontlines exposed to extreme heat and weather events?**

A. I am persuaded that there are some things that government cannot do but can only be done by the Divine hand of God. Government can't stop storms from forming, nor the earth from quaking; neither fix the changes in the climate and stop it from happening. Climate change is bigger than man and his efforts from the natural standpoint, is minimum at best when boxing with mother nature. We must continue to give public warnings to when ozone levels are high, extreme temperatures events and when impending danger is on the horizon so people can make every effort to get out of harms way and protect themselves, and their communities, especially to those who are exposed to regularly to the climate conditions. Newer technologies have allowed us to foresee dangers, I will continue to champion this and preplan for relief when disasters happen.

**Q5. If elected, how will you engage your constituents and ensure that impacted community members have a voice and influence in decision-making related to environmental issues?**

A. I am a grassroots Candidate and love working with communities. Townhall Community Meetings will keeps communities connected with what is going on at City Hall and will supply their voice at the horseshoe table. Our government is of the People, by the People and for the People. It is designed to work from its people upward, not from government downward. Social Media, and Constituent Services will be my other tool to keep connected with community and to draw in young voices for future leadership development.





**Candidate Name:**

**LETITIA L. PLUMMER**

**23**

**Running for:**

**CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE 4 – INCUMBENT**

**Campaign Site:**

**WWW.PLUMMERFORHOUSTON.COM**

**Q1. If you are elected, what will you do to address the impact of environmental quality (air, land, and water quality) on health? What does environmental justice mean to you?**

A. While both state and federal agencies hold permitting powers, our role as Council Members is to be the voice of our constituents. Time and again, I’ve stood against permits for facilities that pose environmental threats, ensuring the well-being and quality of life of our residents remains at the forefront of decision-making. Environmental justice means ensuring that Black and Brown communities in Houston receive equal protection from environmental hazards and equal access to decision-making processes. For too long, these communities have borne the brunt of pollution and climate impacts, exacerbating health and socio-economic disparities. My commitment is to ensure that our policies prioritize the well-being of all Houstonians. Mitigate climate change and uplift marginalized communities, proving that environmental justice and economic prosperity can, and should, go hand in hand.

**Q2. What do you think are the most effective strategies to decrease air pollution from (1) industry and (2) the transportation system?**

A. I remain committed to championing stricter regulations in partnership with both the TCEQ and EPA. It’s vital for our city’s health and sustainability that we consistently promote the advancement of green technologies. This not only ensures a transition to cleaner methods and processes but also paves the way for a brighter, more sustainable future. Furthermore, an integral part of this initiative is to invest in the expansion and modernization of Metro. Our goal is to make it more alluring to the public, as well as more efficient and environmentally friendly. As we broaden our transportation horizons, there’s a clear need to cultivate EV charging networks citywide. Additionally, preserving our green spaces — our city’s natural air purifiers — remains paramount. Moreover, by championing mixed-use developments, we aim to cut down commuting distances significantly.

**Q5. If elected, how will you engage your constituents and ensure that impacted community members have a voice and influence in decision-making related to environmental issues?**

A. In my first term, every policy I championed stemmed from community engagement. This engagement manifested in diverse ways: from comprehensive events like our 4-day Cancer Cluster Summit to personal interactions such as phone conversations with community groups. Consistently, I have been a strong proponent of Community Benefits Agreements for city policies. My advocacy ensures that our residents not only have their voices heard but also occupy a significant place in the decision-making process. It is imperative for me that the community remains at the heart of our policy formulation, ensuring that every decision resonates with and serves the needs of our residents.

**Q3. How would you work to protect public health and safety considering our region’s history of (1) industrial disasters and (2) roadway injuries and fatalities?**

A. Firstly, I will advocate for stringent safety regulations and oversight for industries, emphasizing the prevention of disasters through proper training, equipment maintenance, and emergency response planning. Collaborating with organizations like Air Alliance Houston and Bayou City Waterkeeper will help in monitoring and enforcing these regulations effectively. Secondly, addressing roadway injuries and fatalities involves investing in safer infrastructure, promoting responsible driving behaviors, and enhancing public transportation options. I will support infrastructure improvements that prioritize pedestrian safety, cycling lanes, and efficient public transit. Additionally, launching public awareness campaigns and working with organizations like BikeHouston and LINK Houston can help raise awareness and reduce road accidents. By combining strict industrial safety measures with comprehensive transportation safety initiatives, we can mitigate the risks associated with industrial disasters and road injuries, ensuring a safer and healthier environment for all residents.

**Q4. What will you do to expand the city’s role in solving the climate crisis, especially for those on the frontlines exposed to extreme heat and weather events?**

A. Our green spaces are important. They act as natural cooling zones, especially beneficial for those exposed to extreme heat, so let’s not pave over them to build new freeways. In our green spaces, we need to plant native, drought-resistant trees and continue the development of community gardens. Additionally, all municipal buildings need to transition to renewable energy sources so we can reduce our carbon footprint. Strengthening our city’s infrastructure is also a priority. By investing in resilient structures and updated drainage systems, we can better prepare for extreme weather occurrences, safeguarding our most vulnerable communities. My vision is to continue working with experts, community leaders, and citizens.



**Candidate Name:**

**ANDREW "DREW" PATTERSON**

**24**

**Running for:**

**CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE 4 - CHALLENGER**

**Campaign Site:**

**WWW.DREWFORHOUSTON.COM**

**Q1. If you are elected, what will you do to address the impact of environmental quality (air, land, and water quality) on health? What does environmental justice mean to you?**

A. First is to get independent test results on any environmental problems. Justice means to hold the party responsible that created the problem or problems.

**Q2. What do you think are the most effective strategies to decrease air pollution from (1) industry and (2) the transportation system?**

A. 1) use most current technology to limit any toxic exposure or cease the causation of toxic problem. 2) to create a better transportation system/network. So that car emissions are lessened 1) absolutely

**Q3. How would you work to protect public health and safety considering our region's history of (1) industrial disasters and (2) roadway injuries and fatalities?**

A. 1) absolutely and a better response time for any disaster. 2) to allow citizens to express their concerns to the government department for safety and fatalities.

**Q4. What will you do to expand the city's role in solving the climate crisis, especially for those on the frontlines exposed to extreme heat and weather events?**

A. Allow any company doing work that those employees (include city employees) do the work at night

**Q5. If elected, how will you engage your constituents and ensure that impacted community members have a voice and influence in decision-making related to environmental issues?**

A. Meet with any and all organizations that express concerns on past, current and future changes planned for the community.



**Candidate Name:**

**SALLIE ALCORN**

**Running for:**

**CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE 5 -INCUMBENT**

**Campaign Site:**

**WWW.SALLIEALCORN.COM**

25

**Q1. If you are elected, what will you do to address the impact of environmental quality (air, land, and water quality) on health? What does environmental justice mean to you?**

A. I will continue to support communities in fighting landfills, concrete batch plants, concrete crushing plants, and other development efforts to diminish public health. That means showing up at TCEQ hearings, writing letters of opposition to TCEQ, using my voice to advocate for communities, and fighting for additional testing of air and soils. To me, environmental justice means all people, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, zip code, have the right to live with clean air and water, fresh foods, tree canopy, and other necessities which align with good health. Many Houston communities have been inundated with development that runs counter to environmental justice and undue harm has been caused. I will advocate for these communities and question the environmental impacts of items which come before city council for a vote. I will seek information from experts and community leaders if there is a possibility of potential negative effect.

**Q2. What do you think are the most effective strategies to decrease air pollution from (1) industry and (2) the transportation system?**

A. Industry - Transition to cleaner energy sources like natural gas, renewable energy, or nuclear power to replace highly polluting fuels. Implement energy-efficient technologies to reduce energy consumption. Implement pollution control technologies such as particulate matter collectors. Improve industrial processes – optimize manufacturing processes to reduce emissions and waste. Increase energy efficiency by conducting audits and upgrading equipment. Implement water recycling and reuse systems to reduce water consumption. Invest in real-time monitoring systems to track emissions and air quality. Transportation – Invest in public transportation. Promote active transportation by providing good infrastructure for walking and biking. Support and invest in electric vehicles and fuel efficient vehicles. Promote carpooling and ridesharing. Upgrade transportation infrastructure and improve traffic management to reduce congestion and allow for smoother traffic flow. Promote telecommuting and flexible work schedules. Conduct public education campaigns about the environmental impacts of transportation choices. Keep promoting #NoCarFriday!

**Q3. How would you work to protect public health and safety considering our region's history of (1) industrial disasters and (2) roadway injuries and fatalities?**

A. On industrial disasters, I will keep doing work as I did along with CMs Peck and Kamin after the Watson Grinding explosion. We amended city ordinance to add provisions related to the exterior (outdoor) storage of hazardous materials. We lowered storage thresholds to trigger a planning review for a Hazardous Enterprise Permit and we required third-party periodic inspections. I will also ensure industrial disaster-related emergency response protocols are focused on timely public notifications and guidance for the public to gain assistance. On roadways, I will keep advocating for increased sidewalk investment, improved crosswalks, and safe bike lanes. I fully support all Vision Zero efforts to design roads for ALL users, not just cars. I am also in favor of lowering the speed limit down to 25 or 20 miles per hour and will advocate for this at the state level.

**Q4. What will you do to expand the city's role in solving the climate crisis, especially for those on the frontlines exposed to extreme heat and weather events?**

A. I am eager to expand composting in the city of Houston. Roughly 24 percent of the material in landfills is food waste. Although this type of waste does decompose relatively quickly, due to a lack of oxygen in the giant pile of trash, bacteria in the waste produces methane gas, which is highly flammable and dangerous if allowed to collect underground. I established the city's first composting pilot and introduced many Houstonians to the concept of diverting food waste. The six-week drop-off program diverted 15,000 lbs of waste from the landfill. Last year, we implemented a pumpkin drop off after Halloween and collected 10,000 lbs of pumpkins. The city has applied for a USDA composting program grant which I supported and encouraged. If funds are awarded, we will further educate on composting, expand municipal drop-off facilities and provide home composting kits. And we need trees near bus stops!

**Q5. If elected, how will you engage your constituents and ensure that impacted community members have a voice and influence in decision-making related to environmental issues?**

A. I will continue to engage communities as I have as chair of the Regulatory and Neighborhood Affairs Committee, especially as related to Municipal Setting Designations (MSDs) and now looking at unpermitted truck yards in residential areas. I am glad approved MSDs will now have expanded testing. If I have a question about the environmental impacts of items on the city council agenda, I will pick up the phone to talk to community members. I will keep attending civic club and super neighborhood meetings to gather input from the community. I will make sure TIRZs and management districts are actively reaching out to community members about development plans. I will encourage community members to come to committee and public session to advocate for environmental justice.



**Candidate Name:**

**RIGO HERNANDEZ**

**Running for:**

**CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE 5**

**Campaign Site:**

**WWW.RIGOFORHOUSTON.COM**

**Q1. If you are elected, what will you do to address the impact of environmental quality (air, land, and water quality) on health? What does environmental justice mean to you?**

A. I will encourage and seek ways to fund public transportation. I will fight to cancel the expansion of I45 and reallocate the almost billion dollars each year to fund more routes, park and rides, and encourage those that can work from home to do so. The problem with traffic is not that our freeways don't have enough lanes, it's that we have too many cars on the road. Encouraging public transportation not only improves air quality but also reduces contaminated water runoff. Environmental justice is a concept that focuses on the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race and social class. This is important to keep in mind, everyone deserves the right to benefit from these environmental changes.

**Q2. What do you think are the most effective strategies to decrease air pollution from (1) industry and (2) the transportation system?**

A. Implementing a working public transportation system is the most effective way to reduce air pollution in our city. The amount of pollution that can be reduced by removing cars off the road is considerable and can also save families thousands a year. Houston has fallen far behind on implementing public transit compared to other major cities like Chicago and New York. So while I'm just proposing increasing more bus routes and buses, the real goal is a metro rail that runs from Downtown to the edges of the beltway. Maybe it's time we start preparing for something like that. As for the industry, allowing people to work from home can mitigate air pollution and traffic. This is something Houston desperately needs and was exposed during covid. Given the amount of people moving to Houston this is a factor we can control and doesn't cost the city anything.

**Q3. How would you work to protect public health and safety considering our region's history of (1) industrial disasters and (2) roadway injuries and fatalities?**

A. I would work with companies to ensure they're following safety protocols and work with city officials to enforce safety guidelines. An extra layer of safety protocols can only benefit and protect the citizens of Houston. Roadway injuries, we can start campaigning and bring reminders to drivers to become more cautious when driving; take measures to reduce roadway accidents and continue to push reduced time of phone use while behind the wheel.

**Q4. What will you do to expand the city's role in solving the climate crisis, especially for those on the frontlines exposed to extreme heat and weather events?**

A. Encourage Public Transportation. Seems like this is the solution to a lot of problems Houston is facing. It certainly reduces the amount of greenhouse gases from vehicles, and while it'll take time to see changes in temperatures, we can start here, today. Also doing away with parking minimum requirements. Allows for more greenspace and should help reduce future flooding occurrences.

**Q5. If elected, how will you engage your constituents and ensure that impacted community members have a voice and influence in decision-making related to environmental issues?**

A. Community engagement is one of top three campaign ideas. I will help organize social events within communities to form easier ways to voice their concerns. It isn't possible hear every individual, but uniting communities and having leaders voice their ideas and concerns makes it easier to focus on issues within communities. Social Media, although i am an advocate in reducing the use of social media, it also serves as a great way to engage with constituents. Makes it easier to put together events, meets, and addressing concerns to a larger audience.