



2020 General Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: John Bucy III

Office Sought: House District 136

Political Affiliation: Democratic Party

Candidate's Website (if applicable): www.BucyForTexas.com

Why are you running for this position?

I'm running for re-election to House District 136 because our work for a better Texas is not done. Texas should be leading the way on providing quality public education and access to healthcare. We also need to get back to politics as public service, and work on issues that affect our constituents and our region such as traffic, infrastructure, and property taxes. Most importantly, we should be seeking innovative solutions to our state and regional problems, and avoid getting mired in the politics of fear and division or petty partisan games. Together, we can build our community up and make Texas as good as its promise.

What do you believe are the three most critical issues facing the State of Texas and why?

The most critical issues are strong public schools, access to healthcare, and providing relief for families and small businesses during COVID-19. I believe every session must be a public education session and that we must increase funding for public schools by the state because that is the only way to lower property taxes. It's imperative that we protect last session's historic gains on public education funding and teacher pay raises while expanding services for special education and mental health, including increasing the amount of Licensed Specialists in School Psychology. When it comes to healthcare we must expand Medicaid to give 1.5 million working Texans access to needed healthcare, bring \$110 Billion of our tax dollars back to Texas over a decade, lower all of our insurance premiums, and save lives. This will also better enable us to address maternal mortality, mental health, and the opioid crisis as well as reduce disparities for low income and rural areas. As for COVID-19, we must ensure the budget is not balanced on the backs of Texas families and small businesses by cutting supports and services that are needed now more than ever.

What do you believe are the three most critical issues facing your district and why?

The issues facing HD 136 very much line up with the issues facing Texas- relief and recovery for COVID-19, strong schools (and relatedly lower property taxes), and access to healthcare. I also prioritize working with local elected officials and the chambers of commerce on economic development matters and regional issues such as traffic.

If elected, what other items would you like to accomplish while in office?

A lot of my focus is on voting rights, from supporting online voter registration and same day registration to increasing access to the ballot box and increasing cybersecurity. I believe we must make it easier for Texans to vote safely and securely and have confidence in our electoral systems.

What do you believe is the role of the state in overseeing cities and counties, especially in regard to land use (zoning, permitting, etc)?

I believe in local control and that the state must work as partners with local and county governments in order to maximize resources and effectiveness.

Cities and Counties are authorized by the state to create a number of citizen-led boards and commissions. One of these boards is the Board of Adjustment, whose two primary objectives are to review and hear appeals to certain land-use decisions and make determinations for a variance to the code. In the past several years, it has become much more difficult for property owners to be granted variances due to the lack of clarity surrounding the term "hardship." Would you support legislation to provide better clarity in the Board of Adjustment variance process to make it more predictable?

Yes

Additional Comments (Optional)

Some of our most valued treasures in Texas are the many historic sites and structures across our state. In Texas, cities are authorized by the state to designate structures as historic, including without landowner consent (requires a supermajority). However, when a historic district (multiple properties) is being formed, there is no remedy for an individual property owner to oppose being pulled into the historic district. In most instances if an individual property owner opposes being designated historic as part of a district it only requires a majority vote to create the district. Would you support legislation that defines a clear process for property owners to oppose being included in a historic district?

Yes, depending on the language of the bill.

What is your position on Project Connect?

I support Project Connect. I formally endorsed Prop A.

What other measures would you support to improve current and future mobility throughout our region?

I believe in the need to invest in transit and roads to increase mobility and connectivity as well as prioritize public safety and quality of life. The state needs to include transit in its transportation funding. I also support utilizing local TODs to draw down more federal dollars. I am open to out of the box solutions as we approach this matter.

Do you support the expansion and improvement of major roadways and highways in our region such as IH-35, US 183, and 360?

Yes

Why or why not? (Explanation of Position)