



2020 General Election Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Carrie Isaac

Office Sought: Texas House of Representatives, HD 45

Political Affiliation: Republican

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

Why are you running for this position?

I'm running because Hays and Blanco counties' voices aren't being heard in the Texas Capitol. Our current representative is an unabashed socialist who consistently votes for higher taxes, bigger government, and less freedom against her constituents' will. I'm deeply invested in the House District 45 community, and I'm running to fight for our values and to keep Texas a beacon of liberty and economic prosperity for the nation.

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

1. The number one priority for the state legislature should always be its one constitutional obligation: the budget. I support a balanced, fiscally responsible budget that stewards the taxpayers' hard-earned dollars wisely. 2. We must also reform our school finance system to ensure our next generation of leaders receives a quality education and dollars are directed into the classroom where they belong. 3. Finally, public safety should remain one of Texas' top priorities — that means securing the border, supporting our brave law enforcement heroes, and cracking down on human trafficking.

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

1. The number one issue I hear from voters throughout Blanco and Hays counties is property taxes. People are struggling to pay their property taxes and are tired of feeling like they're renting their home from the government. My opponent voted nine times to raise taxes and fees. She even voted against reducing property taxes. She supports a state income tax and voted against the Texas Taxpayer Transparency Act to silence homeowners when their property tax rates are raised. I'm committed to actually cutting taxes. 2. Our district is also deeply concerned with providing for our children's education. We have great school districts, but there is room for improvement. And every school district in HD45 is robbed of critical funding through Robin Hood recapture. I plan to reduce emphasis on standardized testing and will work to increase teacher pay and merit-based pay for teachers to reward and attract the best educators for our next generation of leaders. 3. We must keep our community safe. While my opponent wants to defund border security and voted against efforts to protect girls and boys from human trafficking, I support the rule of law. I'm committed to fully funding local law enforcement, fighting human and sex trafficking, and increasing border security technology to keep drugs, cartels, and international gangs out of our schools and community.

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

I'll work to end surprise medical billing, protect our Hill Country and especially groundwater rights, roll back burdensome regulations to help create jobs, protect our Second Amendment rights, and defend the lives of the unborn.

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 locally elected officials, who are the closest to their constituents, are usually best positioned to make local decisions like zoning and permitting. However, I'm open to considering state involvement in certain circumstances, such as in the case of municipal overreach creating a patchwork quilt of unpredictable and expensive regulations.

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)

I understand the Board of Adjustment process is a significant challenge for developers and builders, but it also affects ordinary citizens seeking to remodel or expand their homes. I'm a firm believer in private property rights and transparent, predictable regulatory processes, so any improvements made to this is a benefit to everyone.

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. The government should not have the power to unilaterally place these kinds of restrictions on people's private property without a transparent process that allows landowners to have a say.

What is your position on Project Connect?

I'm concerned about several aspects of Project Connect, such as the high cost, the use of electric buses, which are needlessly costly and provide no environmental benefit, and light rail, which has not proven in high demand. However, I understand it could be beneficial for constituents who commute to Austin. I

would need to learn more about how Project Connect could benefit the state and the district I aim to serve.

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

Texas should pursue tort reform for environmental lawsuits. Save Our Springs and similar organizations have cost Texans billions in lawsuits and delayed critical construction projects, especially on I35 and 290 and Mopac, by years. I believe some reasonable restrictions should be placed on environmental challenges for construction and land use.

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)

Congestion is a major source of frustration for many residents of House District 45, and as Hays County continues to be one of the fastest-growing counties in the country, the problem will only continue. Traffic delays also contribute to significant lost economic productivity. Our state and local officials should work together to alleviate congestion in the most fiscally responsible manner.