



NARAL Pro-Choice Texas

Houston Candidate Questionnaire On Reproductive Rights



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District C

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Legality of Abortion

I believe abortion is part of comprehensive reproductive health care and support the right to choose abortion as fundamental to each person's autonomy.

Agree

I support the enshrinement of the fundamental right to abortion in law and oppose legislation that makes abortion and other reproductive health services harder to access.

Agree

Policies That Affect Access to Abortion

Insurance coverage for abortion services, including government-provided health insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, etc.

Support

Comments: Insurance policies, whether government-provided or not, should not be able to discriminate against women by denying or restricting abortion services.

Laws that prevent local governments and jurisdictions from providing funding for abortion services to indigent residents

Oppose

Comments: Indigent residents should have the same access to abortion services as everyone else. I have also taken a very vocal position against SB22, which further strong



arms local governments to prevent them from partnering with health care safety net providers.

State law that requires doctors to provide information unsupported by medical and scientific evidence, such as the claim included in the “Women’s Right to Know” Act that asserts that abortion increases the risk of breast cancer

Oppose

Comments: Politicians should get out of the way and let women make health care decisions for themselves in consultation with their doctors.

State law that that imposes a medically unnecessary 24-hour waiting period on abortion patients, necessitating at least two separate visits to the same provider

Oppose

Comments: Politicians should get out of the way and let women make health care decisions for themselves in consultation with their doctors.

Policies that require pregnant minors to obtain parental consent or seek a judicial bypass in order to receive an abortion

Oppose

Comments: Legislators pushing these bills have an agenda that is much different than protecting pregnant minors. I do believe, however, we need to make sure there are supports in place for these minors, depending on their age and maturity. Like with any medical procedure, parents should normally play a role and provide support for their child. I do believe a well-designed judicial bypass option for minors is appropriate.

Policies, including local clinic safety ordinances, that protect patients, doctors, and other health care professionals at reproductive health clinics from violence, harassment, threats, and intimidation

Support

Comments: Public safety is the highest priority of city government. Harassment, and even violence, is a very real threat at reproductive health clinics. I have previously worked on issues surrounding this and want to do everything possible to protect women and their families, and health care providers.



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Proposals ensuring that “crisis pregnancy centers” (CPCs, fake women’s health clinics, of which there are more than 10 in Houston) do not mislead or intimidate people facing unintended pregnancy by misrepresenting themselves as sources of unbiased health information, and local ordinances that limit false advertising and other deceptive practices of CPCs

Support

Comments: This fits squarely within our city’s obligation to protect the health of the public.

Non-coercive, comprehensive access to the full range of reproductive health care, including abortion, for incarcerated people

Support

Comments: Incarceration does not disqualify people from access to health care.

Local funding for organizations that provide logistical assistance, doula services, and other wrap-around support for people seeking abortion care

Support

Comments: I support this, budget permitting.

Policies That Support Access to Comprehensive Reproductive Health Care and Support Healthy Communities

State law that prevents local government from partnering with abortion providers or their affiliates (such as, but not only, Planned Parenthood) for services like sexual health education, family planning initiatives and STI prevention

Oppose

Comments: SB 22 is both absurd and dangerous and needs to be overturned. I have been outspoken on this issue and you can read more about it here:

<https://www.abbiekamin.com/issues/sb22>

Proposals that allow certain individuals or corporations (such as HMOs, pharmacists, and health insurance companies) to refuse to provide specific reproductive health services, information, or referrals, including under claim of “religious liberty”



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Oppose

Comments: As the Committee Director for the State House Human Services Committee during the 85th Legislative Session, I combated one of the first, if not the first, iteration of a “sincerely held religious beliefs” exemption to anti-discrimination laws at the state legislature, that a committee member attempted to attach to an omnibus bill as a direct attack on the rights of the community to become foster parents. I continued this fight at the state legislature through my work for the Anti-Defamation League.

Emergency contraception (EC) should be accessible to all people – including ER patients and people who seek services because of rape or sexual assault. (EC is an FDA-approved contraceptive, taken after sex, which greatly reduces the likelihood of pregnancy. EC is not abortion and cannot harm a pregnancy if one is already established.)

Agree

Comments: This is a commonsense health care position.

All Houston workers should have a living wage of at least \$15 per hour.

Agree

Comments: I support this in principle, subject to the city’s budget constraints and state laws prohibiting cities from setting their own minimum wages. The existing minimum wage – the federal standard of \$7.25/hour – is wholly insufficient to support a family. Texas law does not permit cities to raise the minimum wage for private sector employees, a restriction that should be overturned. Fortunately, the city pays its employees more. The minimum hourly wage for a city worker is \$13.55. Budget permitting, I would be open to an increase to \$15.

All employers, including the City of Houston, should provide paid family and medical leave so that people aren’t forced to make a choice between earning an income and caring for themselves and their families.

Agree

Comments: I would support an election by the voters and would campaign in favor of the measure.

Pregnant individuals should be able to work, be protected from discrimination, and be provided with any reasonable accommodations they need.

Agree



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Comments: An employee's pregnancy is no excuse for discrimination by employers.

The City of Houston should protect its employees, public housing residents, and HHA voucher recipients from discrimination based on gender identity and reproductive decisions.

Agree

Comments: This is a matter of common sense and fairness.

The City of Houston has a role to play in helping school districts provide age-appropriate and medically accurate sexual health education that is not limited to teaching only abstinence.

Agree

Comments: I agree in principle but want to learn more about how the city could play a role here.

Undocumented people should be able to access reproductive health care without fear of being reported or shamed. The City of Houston should implement programs to help undocumented residents feel safe when seeking these services, such as municipal identification and cultural competency and "Know Your Rights" trainings for healthcare providers and clinic staff.

Agree

Comments: I have worked with local immigration advocacy groups, civil rights groups, business community groups and HPD on a variety of matters over the past several years, related to healthcare, safety and family separation issues.

Municipal courts should abolish cash bail such that people do not face pre-trial incarceration — and, therefore, the risk of losing their homes, jobs, and ability to care for their families — for being too poor to post bond.

Agree

Comments: I agree that the municipal courts should be subject to the same bail reform rules that have been imposed on our district courts by Federal Judge Lee Rosenthal.

Getting to Know the Candidate and How They View Reproductive Freedom



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Please describe your stance on access to reproductive health care, including family planning, contraception, and access to abortion.

I have been a strong and vocal supporter of access to reproductive health care. I've marched, I've raised money, I've advocated in multiple forums.

Where does it fall on your list of priorities?

Reproductive freedom is a very high priority for me. I believe it should be a city priority as well.

Do you see a connection between reproductive rights and other issues, such as racial, economic, and migrant justice?

Absolutely. Denying reproductive rights is an age-old tool – and an insidious one – to maintain oppression.

How will that impact your service if elected to office? Do you intend to proactively seek out opportunities to champion action for reproductive rights, including by drafting and sponsoring creative items to increase gender equity and access to reproductive health for all Houston residents?

Yes. I have been following the actions by the City of Austin in response to SB 22. Whether or not they are ultimately successful, it is important to test the boundaries of this dangerous law until we can overturn it.

How do you feel about preemption of local government on progressive issues? Specifically, are you willing to champion, support, and vote for legislation that may ultimately be preempted if you feel it's the right thing to do, including on issues of abortion access? Will you, subsequent to passage of progressive legislation, work to stop potential preemption, including actively opposing state legislative overreach and providing resources to defend city laws in court?

Yes, absolutely. As a civil rights attorney, I am well versed in legal strategies to get around or ultimately invalidate discriminatory legislation. I am all in on this.

Tell us about a time when you stood up for reproductive rights and gender equity. Have you ever been publicly outspoken about your values in supporting access to abortion? Have you ever had conversation with colleagues, coworkers or other community members, published an opinion piece in the paper, attended a public event in support of reproductive rights, etc?



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Standing up for these values is at the heart of everything I do. I have marched, spoken out at rallies, and helped organize Houston's Roe v. Wade luncheon. I've also served on public panels discussing these issues. Examples include a panel on maternal mortality and another on the nexus between Houston's proposed equal rights ordinance (H.E.R.O.) and reproductive justice.