



NARAL Pro-Choice Texas

Houston Candidate Questionnaire On Reproductive Rights

Jesus Zamora

Candidate for City Council

District F

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.

Oppose

Comments: There shouldn't be any external influences outside of natural order playing into basic human rights. We observe this within our political system where religious bias bleeds into legislative lobbying, ultimately shaping the laws that govern every day people. We have a lot of restraints when it comes to the right for women to choose whether she needs assistance in conceiving or maybe cannot afford the child and does not want to place the baby into the system. I do not support Insurance companies having regulations on women when it comes to reproductive rights. We should strip political bias, whether it be based on religious or personal beliefs.

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

Oppose



Comments: Due to slavery and oppression is the reason why it has been a domino effect on how certain people treat other ethnic backgrounds. We need to stop having laws that are aimed to limit natural born rights for certain races and not others. Lower class communities need to have the same access as those at the top.

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

Support

Comments: Yes, I do believe that you can't make a claim if you haven't done any scientific research.

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: Invasive to the right of a woman and imposing emotional distress. Medical providers not understanding the toll and stress they put on a woman before the procedure is actually done.

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

Oppose

Comments: Many people have to understand that if a minor accidentally gets pregnant they may fear their parents disowning them and having to fend for themselves in the world possibly facing homelessness if they don't have assistant otherwise.

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

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



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Support

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

Support

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

Support

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

Support

Comments: Yes, I do believe that the government needs to have limited, to not involvement in abortion matters.

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"

Oppose

Comments: I strongly believe in the separation of church and state and no involvement.

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

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

Agree



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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

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

Agree

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

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

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

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

Getting to Know the Candidate and How They View Reproductive Freedom

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



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I believe with how things are going now with Texas and other States making it difficult/illegal for someone who is seeking resources when it comes to an abortion is wrong. A woman has the right to do with her body what she sees best. If she is in a situation that she knows either she is not financially stable or the baby won't be brought up in proper condition.

Where does it fall on your list of priorities?

On my top list of priorities.

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

Yes, I do see a connection. As mentioned above government plays a key role in all of these issues. I have mentioned numerous times that racism does play a role in this as we always see the minority communities that get the short end of any laws that are signed.

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, when I am elected I will make sure to lobby in Austin to make change across Texas and in Houston to ensure reproductive rights are our main priority.

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, I will make sure to vote for legislation that will always defend the rights of everyone especially when it comes to abortion. When looking at the constitution and "We the People" is my favorite part that shows we are elected to serve the people and make sure their voice is heard.

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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Speaking with my fellow church members I have multiple times expressed how the importance of giving a woman the right to choose what she wants to do with her body, and not dictate what is right or wrong.