



NARAL Pro-Choice Texas

Houston Candidate Questionnaire On Reproductive Rights



Isabel Longoria

Candidate for City Council
District H

Website: www.IsabelLongoria.com

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: Abortion services are healthcare and should be insured and funded as such. Additionally, we need to find a way to make healthcare more affordable for all.

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

Oppose

Comments: We allow our local governments to provide healthcare services in all cases, regardless of a person's ability to pay. We should never force someone to make a decision about their health and life based on their ability to pay.



NARAL Pro-Choice Texas

Houston Candidate Questionnaire On Reproductive Rights

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: Government entities should not support the dissemination of information that is not credible or scientifically based.

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: This practice is not required for other healthcare services and abortion services should not be the exception.

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

Oppose

Comments: I think this is important for situations where a minor may feel their life is at risk by having to tell a parent or family member about their pregnancy status. Either because the family member may be sexually abusing the minor, or for other religious or cultural reasons. However, I do hope the minor would be provided with appropriate wrap around services to help counsel them on other abuse or mental health services and shelter/housing options if they felt their homes was not a safe place for them.

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: No one should face harassment or violence because in their workplace.

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



NARAL Pro-Choice Texas

Houston Candidate Questionnaire On Reproductive Rights

Support

Comments: Much like "conversion therapy" for LGBTQIA+ individuals, we do not as a City need to support misleading or dangerous "services".

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

Support

Comments: Healthcare is a right that should be available to everyone regardless of your incarceration status.

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

Support

Comments: I support access to the full range of reproductive healthcare.

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: I do not think it is in the interest of any municipal entity to be prevented with working with credible healthcare partners for the greater good of the community.

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: As a lesbian I have experienced first hand this kind of harmful behavior in a healthcare setting. I do believe we tread a fine line on this topic regarding speech and



NARAL Pro-Choice Texas

Houston Candidate Questionnaire On Reproductive Rights

religion issues, but overall I understand we need enact protections in government and healthcare settings to protect individuals from discrimination and undue harm.

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: All healthcare options should be readily available to those in need.

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

Agree

Comments: Yes! To the point it is one of the major items I am advocating for on my campaign.

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

Comments: It is another reason we need to pass a local equal rights ordinance that helps protect people from discrimination based on pregnancy status.

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 perfect example of why we need to pass a local equal rights ordinance.

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.



NARAL Pro-Choice Texas

Houston Candidate Questionnaire On Reproductive Rights

Agree

Comments: While I do not know how influential the City itself can be in setting education policy for the independence school districts, I do support sexual health education in public schools.

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: This is critical in the intersection of immigration and reproductive justice policies. Undocumented individuals should not risk their health or life in not seeking certain services for fear of retribution.

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: It is not right to further criminalize individuals for being too poor to post bail. Bonds should be used only as a limited tool to hold individuals who truly would pose a danger to the community, not as a procedural matter to secure more funds for the cou

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.

I believe abortion services, as part of reproductive healthcare, should be easily accessible and affordable to all individuals. We need to as a community stigmatize access to reproductive health by standardizing science-based sex education in schools, providing affordable contraception regardless of health insurance access, and allowing individuals to make the best decisions for their health as informed by trained medical professionals. Reproductive healthcare is healthcare and should be treated as such.



NARAL Pro-Choice Texas

Houston Candidate Questionnaire On Reproductive Rights

Where does it fall on your list of priorities?

My top priorities are affordable housing, increasing the minimum wage, and equality issues. Closely following those top priorities is reproductive healthcare justice. We cannot thrive as a society unless we provide for the health of our communities.

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

Absolutely. We know Texas has the highest rate of Black individuals dying during childbirth, which is rooted in the biases of race in the healthcare system. We know LGBTQIA+ individuals face stigma in accessing reproductive healthcare if they do not present as a feminine women, which can cause severe mental and physical health issues. We know that indigent individuals who may not be able to access abortion services (because of state imposed wait or travel times) may feel it necessary to chose dangerous alternatives or face providing for a family past their current means. Reproductive justice is the acknowledgement that reproductive healthcare is healthcare, as must be made available to all as such.

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?

Absolutely. I am running as a Progressive Democrat because I understand the important of being proactive in our support for reproductive justice issues. I was proud to have championed these issues when working for Representative Jessica Farrar and Senator Sylvia Garcia and will continue to do so as a Councilmember.

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?

Absolutely. We can't hold ourselves doing what is right because of what actions may or may not happen in the future. Additionally, laws that are preempted now may not be in the future. So we need to work towards and plan for the community we envision, not the short-term political realities that may prohibit us from certain actions.



NARAL Pro-Choice Texas

Houston Candidate Questionnaire On Reproductive Rights

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?

During my first legislative session in 2011 in the Texas House I served as Director of the Women's Caucus under Chair Jessica Farrar's leadership. Tea Party Republicans had just swept the elections and the Texas Legislature began passing a series of incredible conservative bills limiting reproductive healthcare access. I wrote talking points, researched topics, and helped our reproductive justice partners and other elected officials with strategy and other resources. I was proud to stand up for reproductive justice then and throughout my three sessions at the Texas Legislature under a conservative Republican reign. I will continue for the rest of my life to steadfastly support reproductive justice issues with my donations, volunteer time, professional experience, and personal conviction.