



NARAL Pro-Choice Texas

Houston Candidate Questionnaire On Reproductive Rights



## Karla Cisneros

Houston City Council District H  
(incumbent)

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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: This is sound public policy.

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

Oppose

Comments: This is an overreach by state government.

**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**



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Oppose

Comments: We need to support the medical and scientific evidence.

**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 is just harassment.

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

Oppose

Comments: This is not necessary.

**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: We need to make sure patients and staff are safe.

**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 is good public policy.

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

Support

Comments: Incarceration should not prevent one from receiving reproductive health care.

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



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Support

Comments: This should be a decision made by local authorities.

## **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: Again, this should be a decision made by local officials.

**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"**

Support

Comments: This is just a backdoor attempt to refuse to provide reproductive health services.

**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 just good policy.

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

Agree

Comments: We can't enjoy the benefits of a growing economy if we are not paying a livable wage.



**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: It is the right thing to do.

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

Agree

Comments: Without question.

**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: The right thing to do.

**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: Again, good public policy.

**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 would say we need to be careful on municipal IDs. We don't want to create a database of individuals that could be accessed by anti-immigrant groups.



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**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: We should not be incarcerating people for being poor.

## **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 have been outspoken on this my entire life.

**Where does it fall on your list of priorities?**

It is one of my ongoing concerns.

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

Yes.

**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?**

I always have.

**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.

**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?**



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**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?**

I had the honor of introducing Beto O’Roark at a campaign rally at White Oak Music Hall that was attended by over 3,000 people. It was the largest and most public event that I’ve had the opportunity to address before. Before I introduced him, I spoke about gender equity and women’s rights and how we needed to say yes to candidates who support and value the contributions of women. The crowd roared!