



NARAL Pro-Choice Texas

Houston Candidate Questionnaire On Reproductive Rights



Dr. Carla Brailey

Candidate for City Council

District D

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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

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

Oppose

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



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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

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

Support

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

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



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Oppose

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

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

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.

Disagree

Comments: The City of Houston should provide paid family and medical leave and be a model for all employers, with the exception of small businesses that have a limited stream of revenue and employees.

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.



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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.

All women deserve access to quality healthcare, affordable contraception, family planning and abortion.

Where does it fall on your list of priorities?

As a woman and an advocate for equity and quality of life, it falls high on my list of top priorities.

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

As discussed in my most recent co-edited book, *Women and Inequality in the 21st Century*, racial; economic; and migrant disparities are very pronounced in reproductive and sexual health. I will work to bring equity and advancement in women's health initiatives in Distinct D and the City of Houston.

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?



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It will impact because due to my high level of consciousness of intersectionality of disparities that impact gender equality and equity, I will be intentional about being a convener of discussions via town halls, community forums, supporting local nonprofit organizations that have a women's first agenda.

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?

Government should not interfere with the right of women to determine their own health care. I am willing to intentionally and unapologetically champion support and vote for legislation that moves moves women's agenda forward. I will work to stop potential preemption. Every woman has the ability to make her own informed choices about her reproductive health and I will advocate for the protection of abortion access/reproductive rights of women in District D.

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?

I'm currently a co-founder of the State of the Black Women and we have directly addressed matters related to pro-choice. As an Assistant Professor of Sociology, I take a critical sociological approach in addressing social inequality, which includes enriching students' consciousness related to gender equality. I most recently co-edited a book, Women and Inequality in the 21st Century and have presented several papers related to women's equality and liberation at several conferences.