



NARAL Pro-Choice Texas

Houston Candidate Questionnaire On Reproductive Rights

Ralph B Garcia

Candidate for City Council At-Large Position 5

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: Coverage should be available if the doctor deems it. It should be available in the cases of mother or child being subject to harm.

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

Oppose

Comments: Private non'profits should amply be able to incur these cost. Tax credits should be set up to allow this, if they don't already.

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: Don't see how they relate. May as well fund them to give rabies treatment.

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: It should be optional for the woman.

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

Support

Comments: We do it for driving cars. Is the doctor, agency or hospital willing to assume the responsibility?

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

Oppose

Comments: Don't we have existing laws that assure protection.? There are other jobs that are high risk. Schools with security get attacked. Maybe enforcement and prosecution should be stricter?

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: I'm not certain this is an abortion issue. Sounds more like a permit issue.

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

Oppose



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Comments: This is not a legal issue. It should be able to be addressed at the administrative level. Why single out the incarcerated?

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

Support

Comments: If they are non-profit then private sources and individuals are there.

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: I would suggest changing the law.

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: That is an individual and business right.

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: I see no great harm..

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

Agree



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Comments: This should have happened 20 years ago. We are too far behind.

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: We are becoming too dependent and lazy.

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

Comments: Do we really need a lwa for that?

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.

Disagree

Comments: City should stay out of school districts business.

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: Your approach to this is from the wrong perspective.

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.



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Disagree

Comments: depending on the offense.

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.

Mine is vague, just as my knowledge of the service is. It seems to be openly available.

Where does it fall on your list of priorities?

Not very high. I am too old to have need for the services. My religion promotes begetting. Need I say more.

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

I see no need to distinguish between abortion and other issues. Does it merit attention, yes. Any time you have public funds involved you're gonna have politics.

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 don't see how it or any other concern should impact or sway my agenda. I'm not running because I have an issue. I'm running so the people can speak up without fear and expect action.

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?

Progressive to me is just a buzz word for "why haven't we dealt with this yet?"



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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?

When I was 17 I was on the Planned Parenthood Board. When I was 26 I helped design and open the first sole public school 20 females, for pregnant students.