



**ASSOCIATED BUILDERS & CONTRACTORS OF GREATER HOUSTON
PAC CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE**

To Be Completed By Candidate or Authorized Campaign Staff

Candidate's Name: *Matt Murphy*

Candidate's Professional Experience: *Fire Protection Engineering Designer/Business Owner*

Candidate's Past Political Activities (Office Holder, Candidate, Volunteer, Etc.): *Candidate For Houston City Council-At Large 4 (2015)*

Who are your key campaign supporters? *NRA, TSRA, and many individual donors and supporters.*

CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

Name of Campaign Committee: *Matt Murphy For Houston* State/District: *TX REP-147*

Headquarters Address (please include physical address and P.O. Box, if applicable):

P.O. Box 301044, Houston, TX 77230-1044

Phone: *832-821-5520* Fax: e-mail: *info@mattmurphyforhouston.com*

Names of Key Campaign Staff Contacts: *Matt Murphy, Ryan Perdue, Paige Cooper, and Phil Owens*

If you have any questions or would like further information please contact:

Ross Winkler- ross@winklerpr.com
Government Relations Liaison to ABC
4910 Dacoma St.
Houston, Texas 77092
Phone: (713) 523-6222
Fax: (713) 874-0747

STATE OFFICIAL QUESTIONS

1. What is your philosophy regarding how governmental policies on businesses affect economic growth?

Limited government interaction and limited regulation has always shown to be help with economic growth, however the lack of ethical choices by business owners have convinced lawmakers to increase regulation instead of allowing the free market system to work as it was designed. I think we should have the freedom run our businesses without governmental interaction and allow consumers to regulate profits and losses based on sales and consumption of goods. I also think that some people who start business are bound to fail once, twice, or many times before they find the path to success. Every mistake is a life lesson. We should not allow government to bail out business owners for the mistakes and unethical decisions they make.

2. Do you support workforce development reform in K-12 education and voting for the required funding to implement the programs?

Education is important to success, but not all people learn the same way or may not ever live up to the potential that an accelerated K-12 education requires. That is the reason we have blue-collar workers and white-collar workers. Not everyone can be the boss. As a person that has lived with ADHD all my life, I am sensitive to this. I struggled through high school, and failed out of many colleges before I found my passion for Fire Protection Engineering. Through the NICET program, I was able to receive certifications that eventually led to my advancement in the industry. As I grew older, I found the maturity to successfully navigate through college, and just a few classes from finally getting my degree in my 40s.

I think we need to find ways to evaluate and offer a diverse amount of opportunities like we used to do. Classes like shop and woodworking should be reinstated and maybe even opportunities for Junior and Seniors to gain valuable certifications in trades like Fire Protection, HVAC, Concrete, Structural Steel, Electrical, etc. since those trades find it difficult to fill high paying jobs. Since skilled trade businesses would benefit from these programs in grade school, then they could help offer offset the cost in order to identify talent that can work with them in the future.

3. State Prevailing Wage laws in Texas require all governmental entities to mandate that certain minimum wages be paid for specific jobs for construction work. Many authorities consider these laws outdated and several states have eliminated them. What is your opinion on Prevailing Wage laws?

As an estimator and project manager of construction projects, I am very familiar with the prevailing wage methods that are used to qualify contractor bids. I am for the complete repeal of the Davis-Bacon Act and any state and local prevailing wage laws because they do not reflect the current construction market trends effectively. These programs hinder economic growth, increase project costs and limit the stretch of taxpayer dollars, cause large burdens on the business owners to stay compliant, and is created to help labor unions create and maintain their strength and unfair advantage.

4. Have you supported the passage of any Tort Reform bills? Yes No
If yes, how and which reforms?

Since HB4 in 2003, I have always supported viable options for lawsuit reform, because I believe that arbitrary justice equals economic inefficiency and comes with a huge cost to our economic system.

5. Are you committed to preserving Tort Reform? Yes No _____ If yes, how, and if no, why not?

By working with my colleagues in the Texas House, I will continue to clean up the loopholes that hinder or repeal any Tort Reform laws and always have an open door to anyone that would like to discuss viable suggestions to help with the effort.

6. Texas is a 'right to work' state. There have been efforts to curtail that right with bills such as the Employee Free Choice Act, which prevents a secret ballot election to unionize. What is your opinion on the subject?

Unions have the opportunity to intimidate workers that may not want to form or join a union in efforts to strengthen their union. I work for a company that employs union workers (Sprinkers-669). Although I see the benefits of always having workers, I have sometimes questioned their pride and quality in work compared to non-union workers. I will continue to fight to maintain Texas as a 'right to work' state.

7. What is your opinion on potential General Contractor licensing statutes?

As a person that believes in the free market system, I have never been in favor of mandatory licensing. I feel that it should be up to the owner's discretion when hiring a General contractor on whether they have a reputable license instead of it being mandated by any government. I will continue to insure that Texas does not issue licenses to general contractors at the state level.

8. Currently, workers who are injured on construction projects can collect their workers compensation benefits, on their employers' workers compensation insurance policy, and then sue other parties on the project (owner, general contractor, other subcontractor) for the same injury. Because Workers Compensation is no fault insurance, the industry feels it should be the sole remedy, except in cases of gross negligence.

What is your opinion regarding a "Statutory Employer" bill?

As this is still a major concern even with the recent Texas Supreme Court decision in the TIC ENERGY AND CHEMICAL, INC. v. MARTIN, court case, I agree with Justice Guzman's decision, and I agree with the industries stance that Workers Compensation should be the sole remedy, except for case of gross negligence.

9. Should immigration laws be handled at the federal or state level?

state

Briefly explain your answer.

I am a strong voice for local control, so if only given those two choices, I would choose that immigration laws should be handled at a state level.

10. What committees do you hope to serve on?

I would be honored to serve on the Business & Industry, Economic & Small Business Development, Economic & Small Business Development S/C on Small Business, Homeland

Security & Public Safety, Land & Resource Management, and Coastal Barrier System, Joint committees.

11. Please list the key differences between you and your opponent(s).

The most important difference is my connection to the district. Since my opponent has ran unopposed without Republican opposition for the past 25 years, my opponent has become completely disconnected from representing all of the citizens of district 147 effectively. I do not close off people that I disagree with. Instead I choose to listen the opposition in effort to understand their key issues and convince them of my beliefs based on fact and understanding of the issue. However, I am not always right, so being able to listen helps affirm my decisions and benefit the majority of the districts opinion.

12. What is your budget & strategy for winning this race?

We have all the money we need to win a campaign if our strategy is implemented effectively. Our strategy is simple. We are continuing to build a strong, broad & diverse coalition of supporters from all demographics and ideological factions to collaborate in the process to keep our elected officials accountable and responsible to our communities. Through our "Know Your Neighbor" initiative, we are encouraging neighbors to get to know each other, so that regardless of the outcome of the race, we can all declare victory on election night. We are running for something – not against someone, and are committed to running a positive campaign that focuses on the issues that unite rather than attacking opponents that has proven to divide and harm our mission for prosperity by driving citizens out of the process. We will address attacks once and continue to move forward and focus on the key fiscal issues challenging our state, city, and district.

13. Many states allow Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) that mandate union construction. Do you support Neutrality in State Government Contracts which allow all contractors to bid on public work?

Yes. I agree with ABC's statement that anti-competitive and costly government-mandated project labor agreements (PLAs) are special interest schemes that end open, fair and competitive bidding on contracts to build taxpayer-funded construction projects. Government-mandated PLAs discourage merit shop contractors from bidding on taxpayer-funded construction contracts and drive up costs between 12 percent and 18 percent, which results in fewer infrastructure improvements and reduced construction industry job creation.

14. The current Lien Law in Texas is outdated and needs reform. Would you support revisions to the State Lien Law?

I agree with Texas Construction Association's opinion that Texas has the most complicated lien laws of any of the 50 states, and the laws need be reformed to make them much less complicated and much more user friendly. Important issues should be addressed specifically in regards to simplifying the process for Lien Wavers and Retainage Liens.