

# Cameron County

## Cameron County Judge

### Description:

The Texas Constitution vests broad judicial and administrative powers in the position of County Judge, who presides over a five-member Commissioners Court, which has budgetary and administrative authority over County government operations.

### Candidates (choose 1):

#### Carlos Cascos



**Party:** Rep

#### Biographical Info:

**Email Address:** ccascos@pbhcpa.com

**Education:** BA in Government, UT Austin Certified Public Accountant

**Experience:** Accounting for over 40 years, County Commissioner, 12 years, County Judge 8 years, Secretary of State 2 years, Department of Public Safety Commissioner 2 years

**Military Service:** none

**List of endorsers:** Governor Greg Abbott

#### Questions:

**Q:** *What leadership qualities do you have that make you uniquely qualified to preside over County Commissioner's Court?*

**A:** As a former county judge, I have presided over hundreds of meetings passing & balancing budgets, keeping taxes low...treating all members of the court, the public & all elected officials with respect, courtesy & professionalism.

**Q:** *What, in your view, are the most important challenges to the office you are seeking, and how can you best serve your constituency during your term of office?*

**A:** My resume speaks for itself...I have served at the county & state level, called upon by the last 2 governors to serve in various statewide capacities. Because of my relationships with state wide agencies & public officials I am uniquely qualified & in a position to call upon those relationships to better serve the constituency of Cameron County. The county relies on state & federal agencies for services & dollars. The relationship I have developed over the years, coupled with my 2 years as SOS gives me an advantage in positively working with these agencies.

**Q:** *How do you react to accusations of bribery and corruption in the county?*

**A:** As public servants, we must be held to a higher standard. I have never been accused or even implied as to being associated with any type of corruption. My name has never been mentioned in a trial of bribing a judge while that judge is being prosecuted. Any type of corruption should not be tolerated or accepted. Period.

**Q:** *What is your position on granting future tax abatements for the two remaining proposed LNG companies locating here? Would that position be different if it were another company wanting to locate in Cameron County?*

**A:** Abatements are a good tool for attracting businesses to our area, hence job creation, whether its LNG, SpaceX or other manufacturing companies. I would not support any abatement for a company that has already decided to come to Cameron County. However, if we are in competition with other areas & an abatement is necessary...I would support it. However, there are matrixes that must be considered before an abatement is granted....such as the # of jobs created, the economic impact, the investment being made...the return on investment should make sense & we should be able to calculate the amount of property taxes we are giving up in the short term vs the property taxes we ultimately collect in the long term.

### **Eddie Trevino Jr.**

**Party:** Dem

**Biographical Info:**

**Questions:**

**Q:** *What leadership qualities do you have that make you uniquely qualified to preside over County Commissioner's Court?*

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** *What, in your view, are the most important challenges to the office you are seeking, and how can you best serve your constituency during your term of office?*

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** *How do you react to accusations of bribery and corruption in the county?*

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** *What is your position on granting future tax abatements for the two remaining proposed LNG companies locating here? Would that position be different if it were another company wanting to locate in Cameron County?*

**A:** - no response -

# **Hidalgo County**

## **Hidalgo County Judge**

**Description:**

The Texas Constitution vests broad judicial and administrative powers in the position of County Judge, who presides over a five-member Commissioners Court, which has budgetary and administrative authority over County government operations.

### **Candidates (choose 1):**

#### **Richard Cortez**

**Party:** Dem

**Biographical Info:**

**Questions:**

**Q:** *What leadership qualities do you have that make you uniquely qualified to preside over County Commissioner's Court?*

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** *What, in your view, are the most important challenges to the office you are seeking, and how can you best serve your constituency during your term of office?*

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** *How do you react to accusations of bribery and corruption in the county?*

**A:** - no response -

## Jane Cross

**Party:** Rep

**Biographical Info:**

**Questions:**

**Q:** *What leadership qualities do you have that make you uniquely qualified to preside over County Commissioner's Court?*

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** *What, in your view, are the most important challenges to the office you are seeking, and how can you best serve your constituency during your term of office?*

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** *How do you react to accusations of bribery and corruption in the county?*

**A:** - no response -

# U.S. Representative

## Texas Congressional District 34

**Description:**

The United States is divided into 435 congressional districts, each with a population of about 710,000 individuals. Each district elects a representative to the U.S. House of Representatives for a two-year term. Representatives are also called congressmen/congresswomen.

## Candidates (choose 1):

### Rey Gonzalez

**Party:** Rep

**Biographical Info:**

**Questions:**

**Q:** *Do you have any plan(s) that would directly affect constituents in your district, and if so, what are they?*

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** *The US Supreme Court's CITIZENS UNITED decision has changed the role of money in politics. What changes, if any, do you support to regulate campaign financing?*

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** *What specific changes would you make to Social Security Medicare/Medicaid to keep the program sustainable for future generations?*

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** *How would you avoid the gridlock that has crippled Congress?*

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** *What changes, if any, should Congress make in immigration policies, and why? \*\**

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** *How would you balance the development of energy sources with environmental concerns? \*\**

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** *What would you propose to stimulate job growth in the country? Explain how your proposal would actually create jobs. \*\**

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** *What is your stance on climate change? How will you address this issue once in office?*

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** *How would you address the federal budget deficit and why? Please be specific.*

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** *Under what circumstances should the U.S. intervene militarily in a foreign conflict?*

**A:** - no response -

### Filemon Vela

**Party:** Dem

**Biographical Info:**

**Questions:**

**Q:** Do you have any plan(s) that would directly affect constituents in your district, and if so, what are they?

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** The US Supreme Court's *CITIZENS UNITED* decision has changed the role of money in politics. What changes, if any, do you support to regulate campaign financing?

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** What specific changes would you make to Social Security Medicare/Medicaid to keep the program sustainable for future generations?

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** How would you avoid the gridlock that has crippled Congress?

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** What changes, if any, should Congress make in immigration policies, and why? \*\*

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** How would you balance the development of energy sources with environmental concerns? \*\*

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** What would you propose to stimulate job growth in the country? Explain how your proposal would actually create jobs. \*\*

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** What is your stance on climate change? How will you address this issue once in office?

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** How would you address the federal budget deficit and why? Please be specific.

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** Under what circumstances should the U.S. intervene militarily in a foreign conflict?

**A:** - no response -

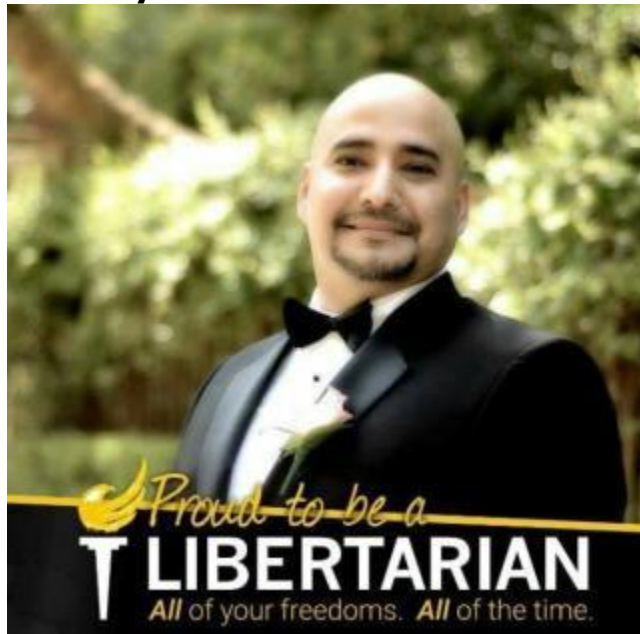
## Texas Congressional District 15

### Description:

The United States is divided into 435 congressional districts, each with a population of about 710,000 individuals. Each district elects a representative to the U.S. House of Representatives for a two-year term. Representatives are also called congressmen/congresswomen.

### Candidates (choose 1):

#### Anthony Cristo



Party: L

**Biographical Info:****Email Address:** anthony.cristo@gmail.com**Age:** 3/24/1971**Education:** BA Communication Arts**Experience:** Fourteen years of scoring, supervising, and directing the essay portion of various state standardized tests and college entrance exams.**Military Service:** United States Navy Marine Corps Reserves 2007 - 2011**List of endorsers:** Certified Constitutional Candidates**Website:** <http://www.cristoforcongress.com>**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/CristoForCongress2018/>**Twitter:** [twitter.com/CristoDude](https://twitter.com/CristoDude)**Questions:****Q:** *Do you have any plan(s) that would directly affect constituents in your district, and if so, what are they?***A:** Yes. I have several plans, which directly affect constituents in the district. The first is stopping construction of Trump's proposed border wall. The government is wishing to invoke eminent domain to take land from people along the Rio Grande River. Though they claim they will pay a fair market value, it is not necessarily so. Additionally, much of this land has been in families for generations and they do not wish to have it taken from them. The other thing is immigration reform. Prior to 9-11, the border was not a defined line so much as it was a general area. People were working in the U.S. then returning home to Mexico where the money they earned afforded them a very comfortable life. Clamping down on the border had the reverse affect on immigration as they were forced to choose between staying where it was cheap and no jobs or going where the money was. They chose the latter. I also support ending the war on drugs because it would eliminate border violence between cartels.**Q:** *The US Supreme Court's CITIZENS UNITED decision has changed the role of money in politics. What changes, if any, do you support to regulate campaign financing?***A:** As a third-party candidate, Citizens United has created an environment where the other two parties basically receive corporate sponsorship for their campaign. The current incumbent has raised over \$1 million to run a campaign for the job he already has. The 15th Congressional district has never had anyone other than a Democrat in the seat so he really does not need the money as he assumes he is already a shoo-in for the win. As for myself, I have paid for my campaign out of my own pocket with the exception of \$500 in campaign contributions. My total budget has been less than \$2,000 as I am a regular working stiff like those I wish to represent. Being out spent 500 - 1 is very difficult but I try anyway because. The Federal Elections Committee allows candidates to keep the funds they do not spend from their campaign. The job of U.S. Representative pays \$174K a year. If the incumbent does not win, he will have received the equivalent of over 5 years pay in campaign contributions alone.**Q:** *What specific changes would you make to Social Security Medicare/Medicaid to keep the program sustainable for future generations?***A:** I would make sure to stop borrowing from it to pay for unnecessary programs. One thing Libertarians support more than the other two parties is enacting a Balanced Budget Amendment: "Government should not incur debt, which burdens future generations without their consent. We support the passage of a 'Balanced Budget Amendment' to the U.S. Constitution, provided that the budget is balanced exclusively by cutting expenditures, and NOT by raising taxes." ~ Libertarian Party Platform 2.4 Government Finance and Spending By continually overspending, we have been depleting the Social Security Medicare/Medicaid programs to where our children and grandchildren will not have it. Staying within a budget is essential to stopping this leeching from our current system. Reducing wasteful government programs (like corporate welfare) will allow us to pay down the debt and keep SS Medicare/Medicaid solvent.**Q:** *How would you avoid the gridlock that has crippled Congress?***A:** "I will work with anyone to do what is right, and with no one to do what is wrong." ~ Frederick Douglass. This is exactly how I feel. The current gridlock is caused by lawmakers doing what is best for their party and not what is best for their constituents. I don't believe in that line of thinking. If someone has a good idea, I will listen to it and see how it helps people. If someone has a bad idea, I will also listen to it but I would explain to the person why I would not support it because it does not help whom they say it will. Currently, Republicans and Democrats support ideas that will make their party look good or support ideas because they will make their other party look bad. This is a poor way to do anything and why I too would work with anyone to do what is right and with no one to do what is wrong.

**Q:** *What changes, if any, should Congress make in immigration policies, and why? \*\**

**A:** As a second generation American, immigration is important to me. My grandfather was born in Monterrey and emigrated to Brownsville with his mother and sister in the 1930's. When WWII broke out, he served in the U.S. army. He earned his citizenship as a result. Currently, we have honorably discharged veterans being deported for minor infractions of the law. This is something that needs to stop immediately. If a person has served in the U.S. military honorably and has earned the right to be buried on U.S. soil, they damn sure better have the right to LIVE on U.S. soil.

**Q:** *How would you balance the development of energy sources with environmental concerns? \*\**

**A:** I believe the government should not be involved in the market. In a true free market, the supply and demand is what controls production. If people want to use solar or wind energy, let them. If it is more efficient to use coal, natural gas, or oil, let them. We the people have a choice in how we spend our money. If we want to support clean energy, we should be free to do so. If a person finds it more cost effective to use non green resources, they should be free to do so. When the government takes away your right to choose on anything, we truly are no longer free.

**Q:** *What would you propose to stimulate job growth in the country? Explain how your proposal would actually create jobs. \*\**

**A:** There is a need to improve the infrastructure of our country. Every year we see flooding on the East coast. This flooding causes billions of dollars in damage, loss of human life, and hinders our commerce. Meanwhile, on the West coast we see wild fires roaring in various areas, which also cause billions of dollars in damage, loss of human life, and hinders our commerce. What I propose is creating an Interstate Irrigation System. By creating catchment areas in the flood zones and have a distribution system going from East to West, the United States will address and remedy two problems plaguing us for decades. It will stimulate the economy as workers build across the country. They will need places to eat, sleep, relax, and let loose while they build. Constructing such a massive undertaking will bring revenue to remote rural towns and countrysides for quite a few years. Ultimately, this Interstate Irrigation System will save billions of dollars in damage, bring water to where it needs it.

**Q:** *What is your stance on climate change? How will you address this issue once in office?*

**A:** Climate change is very real, but mankind has no control over it. Every year, 40 billion tons of air pollution is pumped into the atmosphere. However, this only accounts for .0008% of the entire volume of the planet's atmosphere. On a daily basis, we only affect the climate by .0000021918%. These particulates do not remain in the atmosphere because of the hydrologic cycle (rain). What we should be concerned about is how these 40 billion tons of particulates affect our food and water supplies as they are washed from the sky to the Earth's surface. Also, NASA reports that the atmosphere is composed of 71% Nitrogen, 28% Oxygen, .93% Argon, and .04% Carbon Dioxide. It seems very unlikely that a gas that comprises .04% of the planet's atmosphere is causing global warming. I would delve more into the science of the other factors involved in climate change (pitch of the axis, orbit proximity to the sun, geothermal expulsions, etc.) but I am running out of space.

**Q:** *How would you address the federal budget deficit and why? Please be specific.*

**A:** Ending the war on drugs would be a huge step as would eliminating corporate welfare and other wasteful government programs. According to the Associated Press, from 1970 to 2010, the U.S. has spent \$1 trillion battling the "War on Drugs." During this time, violence and drug use has increased exponentially and there is no indication that it is waning in any way. By the end of 2018, this number will have increased \$200 billion. The DEA estimates that between \$200 - \$750 billion in drugs is transacted in the U.S. Legalizing recreational drugs would automatically remove \$25 billion in tax money being wasted. The income taxes and sales taxes from narcotic legalization would generate an additional \$20 to \$75 billion annually. Within ten years, this would pay off anywhere from \$450 billion to \$1 trillion of our current \$21 trillion deficit. Eliminating other wasteful government programs and sending billions to foreign countries would also help eliminate the deficit.

**Q:** *Under what circumstances should the U.S. intervene militarily in a foreign conflict?*

**A:** As a veteran who sat countless hours on suicide watch with men who came back in pieces (physically, mentally, and emotionally) from Iraq and Afghanistan, I don't think our military should be sent into any foreign conflict that does not directly affect us. The Taliban is no longer in power. Saddam Hussein is no longer in power. It is time to bring all our soldiers home and let the people of those countries decide for themselves how they wish to be governed. I do support maintaining a strong military but we need to stop using the lives of our brothers and sisters to police the world. A wise leader never goes looking for war but is always prepared for it.

**Vicente Gonzalez**

**Party:** Dem

**Biographical Info:**

**Questions:**

**Q:** *Do you have any plan(s) that would directly affect constituents in your district, and if so, what are they?*

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** *The US Supreme Court's CITIZENS UNITED decision has changed the role of money in politics. What changes, if any, do you support to regulate campaign financing?*

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** *What specific changes would you make to Social Security Medicare/Medicaid to keep the program sustainable for future generations?*

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** *How would you avoid the gridlock that has crippled Congress?*

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** *What changes, if any, should Congress make in immigration policies, and why? \*\**

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** *How would you balance the development of energy sources with environmental concerns? \*\**

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** *What would you propose to stimulate job growth in the country? Explain how your proposal would actually create jobs. \*\**

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** *What is your stance on climate change? How will you address this issue once in office?*

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** *How would you address the federal budget deficit and why? Please be specific.*

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** *Under what circumstances should the U.S. intervene militarily in a foreign conflict?*

**A:** - no response -

**Tim Westley**

**Party:** Rep

**Biographical Info:**

**Questions:**

**Q:** *Do you have any plan(s) that would directly affect constituents in your district, and if so, what are they?*

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** *The US Supreme Court's CITIZENS UNITED decision has changed the role of money in politics. What changes, if any, do you support to regulate campaign financing?*

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** *What specific changes would you make to Social Security Medicare/Medicaid to keep the program sustainable for future generations?*

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** *How would you avoid the gridlock that has crippled Congress?*

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** *What changes, if any, should Congress make in immigration policies, and why? \*\**

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** *How would you balance the development of energy sources with environmental concerns? \*\**

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** *What would you propose to stimulate job growth in the country? Explain how your proposal would actually create jobs. \*\**

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** *What is your stance on climate change? How will you address this issue once in office?*

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** *How would you address the federal budget deficit and why? Please be specific.*

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** *Under what circumstances should the U.S. intervene militarily in a foreign conflict?*

**A:** - no response -