

CENTRAL VALLEY PROGRESSIVE PAC

Candidate Questionnaire for Fresno City Council

June 8, 2010 Election

Name Jose Leon Barraza__ Office Fresno City Council District 5_ Date 4-5-2010_

Name of Campaign Committee: Jose Leon Barraza for Fresno City Council 2010

Address P. O. Box 8817_____ City _Fresno_____ Zip 93747

E-mail: joseleonbarraza@yahoo.com_ Web Site: www.josebarrazafordistrict5.com

Phone 559-453-0124 Fax 559-255-7635 Campaign Manager Jesse Arreguin

1. Please list the name and dollar amount of your four largest financial contributors.

Answer: : Abraham Gonzalez \$500
Jaime Gonzalez \$500
Dan Ronquillo \$200
Adam and Priscilla Zamudio \$400

2. Would you support privatizing public services, if there is a cost savings to the City?

Answer: Every opportunity to save money must be examined by the Fresno City Council. However, other options to having the work done by city workers with more efficient equipment should be evaluated first. The cost savings needs to be carefully evaluated to make sure that the commitment made by private proposals have short term and long term savings. Need to be careful that low ball proposals are scrutinized carefully with an apples to apples comparison. I would also examine carefully the wages and benefits proposed for the private employers to ensure they are reasonable.

3. The Fresno Police Department is installing video surveillance cameras in Fresno. There are plans to vastly expand the project, merge the cameras of local businesses into the system, and actively monitor the cameras from a central location. Describe any civil liberties concerns you have about this development.

Answer: Due to budget constraints it is important to examine any alternative that involves the use of new technical resources available to improve public safety. I support the use of surveillance equipment in public areas. However I would oppose their use into homes or residents without their authorization.

4. Do you support the proposed 10 X 10 Housing Plan?

Answer: I am not familiar with this plan but I will research it.

5. Fresno has a long history of urban sprawl. Is there a limit to how far Fresno should expand its boundaries? What steps should Fresno take to reduce our dependency on automobile use?

Answer: The City of Fresno should offer incentives to make sure all vacant areas within the city are fully utilized and the same should apply to bring islands into City jurisdictions. It appears that higher densities in the City are going to be necessary. I do not support a limit on future growth because that artificially increases the cost of homes in the City.

I support programs that reduce our dependency on automobile use. Planning programs like the Landscape of Choice adopted by various local jurisdictions is a step in the right direction.

6. Do you support or oppose efforts to build a nuclear power plant in the Central Valley and why?

Answer: I would like to obtain more information on the pros and cons and the safety factors associated with a nuclear power plant

7. Police accountability is a concern of the progressive community. We believe it is in the interest of the FPD and the community that there is trust and transparency in all police operations. Why do you believe the Office of Independent Review will or will not work?

Answer: I believe the Office of Independent Review should be given an opportunity to work. This process needs to be reviewed periodically to ensure it is working that it is fair to residents that file complaints and to officers of the Police Department

8. What are the three most important issues in your Council District?

Answer: Public Safety, Jobs and Economic Growth

9. Do you support re-establishment of an independent Human Relations Commission?

Answer: Yes

10. What do propose the City should do regarding our homeless population?

Answer: Maximize the use of County resources already available to help the indigent.

11. Do you support or oppose the City's Median Island Safety Ordinance and why?

Answer: We need to examine its effectiveness and make changes as necessary.

12. Do you support or oppose restoration of marriage equality in California and why?

Answer: I have not take a position on this issue.

CVPPAC Fresno City Council Candidate Questionnaire, Page 2

13. Do you support or oppose the \$11 billion water bond ballot measure and why? What about the proposal to use the Tulare Lake Basin for above ground water storage?

Answer: I support the \$11 billion ballot measure. And would examine all alternatives to make water available to the Fresno region.

14. Do you support or oppose the City of Fresno's current policy to ban medical marijuana dispensaries? Why

Answer: As currently situated Fresno needs to have control of medical marijuana dispensaries that could generate potential abuses of marijuana distribution in the City.

15. Do you support or oppose limits on financial contributions for City Council and Mayoral campaigns and why? I support existing limits.

Answer:

16. What concerns, if any, do have about the displacement of residents in low-income neighborhoods by gentrification? At this point sufficient populations are not being impacted but the cost of relocation should be borne by the proponents of gentrification

Answer:

17. Do you support or oppose the proposal to delete section 1504 from the City Charter and thereby not expand the number of City Council Districts in the near future?

Answer: I would like to further evaluate this issue.

18. Do you think the federal military spending in Iraq and Afghanistan has an adverse impact on the City's ability to meet its financial needs? If yes, what, if anything, should the City do about it?

Answer: I have not formulated a position on this matter but this is a federal matter that voters should impact at the time of electing their federal representatives.

19. Do you consider unions a benefit or detriment in the work force?

Answer: Yes, Unions can have a positive impact in improving employment conditions for workers of the City of Fresno. Employers should work with unions not against unions.

20. If future City budget cuts are needed, what specific cuts would you propose and why?

Answer: I would first look at support functions, capital projects and defer maintenance and equipment purchase of City government and would make sure reductions equally spread at all levels of City government.

21. What, if anything, can the City do to increase jobs in our community?

Answer: Please see my attached vision of how to improve business conditions in the City of Fresno.

22. What operations and services provided by the Fresno Police and Fresno County Sheriff do you support consolidating, if any? This is an area that requires more analysis but I believe there are many opportunities in this area.

23. What are your concerns, if any, about the sectarian prayers used at the beginning of each City Council session? Is this an issue of concern about the separation of church and state?

Answer: Nondenominational prayers should be allowed at official events of City government.

24. Why to you feel you are the best candidate for this office?

Answer: Because no other candidate for District 5 has the depth of experience and knowledge I do. 34 years administrative experience working for the County of Fresno. My biography provides more information.

25. How would your election promote the Mission Statement of the CVPPAC?

Answer: I am a candidate that would like whatever possible to improve the quality of life for all residents of the City of Fresno. In order to improve quality of life we have to help businesses and the local economy prosper. I care about the individual rights of residents and their access to a good education and training that can allow them to meet their needs

for decent housing, safe neighborhoods, a clean environment and respect for their individual rights.

Thank you for taking the time to complete our candidate questionnaire and for participating in the Central Valley Progressive PAC endorsement process. Please e-mail your completed questionnaire with the questions and your answers in Word format to info@cvppac.org no later than 6:00 PM on Friday, April 2, 2010. All participating candidates will be notified of the CVPPAC's endorsement decisions the third week of April.

BIOGRAPHY
JOSE LEON BARRAZA

EDUCATION:

**1978 Master of Public Administration, California State University,
Fresno**

1974 B.S. Business Administration, California State University, Fresno

1972 A.A. Fresno City College

Jose Leon Barraza and his wife Elsa have been married for 30 years. They have three children and two grandchildren. Jose retired from the County of Fresno after a 34-year career of public service. Jose is also a licensed real estate broker and licensed general contractor. For the past 19 years Jose and Elsa have owned and managed Leon Properties and Construction.

PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Director: Fresno County Economic Development; Fresno County Regional Enterprise Zone. (2009)

Member: City of Fresno Empowerment Zone Board representing County of Fresno. (2009)

Negotiator: County of Fresno, tax-sharing Memoranda of Understanding with cities in Fresno County. (2009)

Chairman: Executive Committee of Five Cities Economic Development Authority. (2008)

Project Coordinator: Phase I-Fresno County Jail Expansion Project. (2008)

Highway 99 Beautification Association: City of Fresno, Selma, Fowler, and Kingsburg and the County of Fresno. Built “Welcome to Fresno County” monument located at Highway 99 and the San Joaquin River crossing with the assistance of the Downtown Rotary and the Fresno Chamber of Commerce. (2006)

Negotiator: Tax-sharing agreement with the City of Fresno to expand the City of Fresno Traffic Enforcement Program reducing traffic casualties. (2005)

Staff Member: Master Plan Fresno County Tourism Committee and Tourism Master Plan.

AWARDS:

Award: Fresno County Municipalities for Creation of the Fresno County Regional Enterprise Zone. (2009)

Award: Five Cities Economic Development Corporation. (2009)

“Champion for Economic Development” Award: Economic Development Corporation serving Fresno County. (2009)

2009 Principal’s Award: Sunnyside High School Marching Band & Color Guard. (2009)

2009 Latino Heritage Awards: California State Assembly Certificate of Recognition presented by Assembly Member Juan Arambula

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:

Chair: Fresno County Blue Ribbon Business Committee (Current)

Member: Sunnyside Property Owners Association (Current)

President: Sunnyside High School Marching Band and Color Guard Boosters (2009)

Member: St. Anthony Marie Claret Catholic Church (Current)

Foreman: Federal Grand Jury of the Eastern District. (1996,1997)