

# CENTRAL VALLEY PROGRESSIVE PAC

## Candidate Questionnaire for Fresno City Council

### June 8, 2010 Election

Name Mike Briggs Office D3 Date 3-20-10

Name of Campaign Committee Mike Briggs for District 3

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

Answer: None so far

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

Answer: Will consider

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: I have a record of voting against such cameras.

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

Answer: Not familiar. I believe housing funds should foster home ownership.

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: I like projects like the Ironbird lofts. However, I think that we should go higher and make attractive housing opportunities close to work.

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

Answer: Willing to listen to all sides.

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: This has been a hot issue. I believe that we need to give it a chance to work.

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

Answer: 1. Public Safety, 2. Jobs, 3. Culture.

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: All those who want to be off the street should have a place. I do not support putting up tin sheds for the homeless. The city should have a place where all homeless, especially women and children have humane temporary accommodations.

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

Answer: No position at this time.

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

Answer: All people deserve a way to formalize and legalize their committed relationships.

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**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: We need well developed water policy.**

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

**Answer: Oppose. This issue should be left to the State and Federal Governments. During the period that the clinics were open, there were no complaints or problems.**

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

**Answer: I think that the limits have supplied a good outcome. However, I am cautious about limiting our ability to express ourselves in a free society.**

**16. What concerns, if any, do have about the displacement of residents in low-income neighborhoods by gentrification?**

**Answer: I do not believe that Fresno will ever run out of low income housing. However, all people should have the opportunity to live in a humane abode. The City needs to continue to seek funds to provide housing to all who have needs.**

**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 oppose the change to the charter.**

**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: There is an adverse impact. Need to find a solution.**

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

**Answer: Part of our free culture.**

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

**Answer: Police, Fire, Sewer, Water & Garbage must be the top priorities.**

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

**Answer: First, we can remove the barriers to natural business growth. Second, we can reinvigorate our local economy by bonding and building our infrastructure needs now.**

**22. What operations and services provided by the Fresno Police and Fresno County Sheriff do you support consolidating, if any? The County Islands need to annex into the City.**

**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? No concern**

**Answer:**

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

**Answer: Four year on the council and four years in the state legislature have given me a unique incite into government budgets. I believe that there is a lot in the budget that can go for other and better uses. I believe that there are millions locked into bureaucratic traditions that need to be found and put to better use.**

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

**Answer: Not sure.**

**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](mailto: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.**