

**Central Valley Progressive Political Action Committee
Endorsement Questionnaire for 2018 State Assembly/Senate Candidates**

Name Aileen Rizo District # AD_23

Name of Campaign Committee Aileen Rizo for State Assembly 2018

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Candidate's Signature *Aileen M. Rizo* Date 8/6/18

Please limit your responses to no more than 300 words per question.

- 1) Do you support single-payer healthcare in the state of California? Why or why not? What will you do to ensure access to high-quality, affordable healthcare?

Yes, I support healthcare for all California residents. I believe health care should be a human right and that it is our responsibility as representatives in Sacramento to ensure this for all our constituents. I will support bills written expressly to address this issue.

- 2) What will you do to address the pressing environmental issues faced by the Central Valley, including improving air quality, as well as access to clean water and promotion of water conservation?

We must hold companies and organizations accountable to clean and healthy environmental policies. I support protecting whistleblowers who report, as scientists or as advocates, those who are violating current policies addressing the environment. Also there should be more scientists and advocates working on both research and solutions to air and water issues. Water rights owned by private parties like Resnick and Paramount Farms need to be addressed as well as maintaining and growing a more sustainable agriculture in the valley.

- 3) Are you supportive of California's leadership in defending immigrant communities and resisting national policies attacking immigrants, particularly undocumented communities? Would you work to strengthen this role? Explain.

Absolutely! I will defend immigrant communities from living in fear and as a target for injustices. I would work to strengthen this role, supporting bills in this area, and ensuring that we continue to press Congress in Washington to move on this issue.

- 4) Consider the state's \$7.5 billion state general fund surplus. What would be your top three or four priorities for this money?

More funding for Early Childhood education is a necessity. Research shows that investments in this area reap great rewards overall to the well being of communities. Also related is the need to increase access to quality child care for all families, and address the water crisis through funding research and capitalizing on storing rain water, as well as pushing to rescind aspects of the Monterey Amendment.

- 5) What will you do to defend, support, and expand access to high-quality public education in the state of California? Be sure your answer addresses the public university as well as K-12 systems.

There is a definite need to support teachers and insure that the respect and pay they deserve is central. We also need to limit the top heavy administration that soaks in a lot of funds that

should instead go to classrooms and students. Change needs to happen at the university and college level so that access to a degree is inclusive and does not mean a great financial burden upon graduation. Use of technology must be widened to increase flexibility in scheduling for working adults and working parents.

- 6) What concerns you about the state's criminal justice systems? Include in your discussion your thoughts on the elimination of the state bail-bond system. What will you do to address these concerns?

The over representation of women and men of color in the justice system screams for change. Mass incarceration must be addressed including the juvenile system. More programs need to be funded that provide mentoring and rehabilitation programs.

- 7) What will you do to support and protect equality in voting access, encourage equal voting participation and combat voter suppression in the State of California?

People need greater accessibility to exercise their voting rights. Technology can provide many tools that we are not taking advantage of when it comes to voting. No one should have to stand in line hours in this age of technology. Also irregularities in the voting process need to be documented and investigated. Once elected I would do all I could to ensure a secure and fair voting process for all. Rural, poor urban areas all should have access to a fair and equal voting process.

- 8) What will you do to address poverty and lack of high quality jobs in the Central Valley?

Research shows that in at least 40% of house holds women are the primary breadwinners. We need to insure that women are paid fairly, supported with quality child care and given paid maternity leave. Another way to address this is education. I believe access to training and programs that will provide educational needs are important. STEM jobs are the future and we need to insure that there are more inclusive programs for students in school within this area. If we have more students graduating in the STEM fields there will be more high quality jobs in the future.

Title V should be used in more innovative ways here in the central valley to provide shelter and housing for those in need. "the name of the 1987 provision that transfers disused federal properties to homeless-service providers."

- 9) What specifically do you plan to do to help ensure the state's stock of affordable, safe and decent housing increases significantly?

There is much to study in this issue including training construction workers needed to produce the housing, addressing the fact that areas who rather receive taxes from companies can limit housing, the increase of wages in proportion to increase in housing costs (especially the wages of community service workers like teachers, police officers, etc.) Each of these issues would have to be addressed to build a formidable solution.

- 10) In conclusion, tell us what you consider to be the top three progressive priorities of your campaign (these can include issues addressed above, or add details not yet addressed in this questionnaire).

- * Strengthening the economic security of women
- * Fighting for the rights of workers
- * Ensuring safe and healthy environments for families

Thank you so much for your time and energy in completing this questionnaire. Your answers will be distributed to our members prior to our March endorsement meeting through the CVPPAC Web site.