

Central Valley Progressive Political Action Committee
Questionnaire for 2018 U.S. Congress Candidates

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Candidate's Signature _____ Date _____

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

- 1) What do you feel have been the three major shortcomings of current Central Valley leadership in the national Congress? What would you do differently?

Devin Nunes has forgotten that he serves the people of the Central Valley, not Trump, and not billionaires and big corporations. Devin Nunes has failed to deliver on water, immigration, and healthcare. The other serious problem with our Congressman is the lack of accountability and accessibility. You cannot get a meeting with Congressman Nunes unless you are a big donor. If elected, I will hold at least two public town halls per year, and I will hire and maintain a professional staff that reflects the district and is ready to serve all people.

- 2) What are your top concerns with the current administration's enacted and proposed tax plans? Explain.

The GOP tax plan that was approved by our Congressman and President Trump puts tax cuts for billionaires and big corporations at the forefront and penalizes states like California by getting rid of SALT deductions. It accomplishes no real tax break for small businesses or middle-class families and adds crushing debt to our future generations. I'm strongly opposed to this tax bill that will pave the way for Republican calls to cut critical services like Medicare, social security, and other funding that keeps our most at-risk Americans afloat. The top 1% does not need a handout from our government; they need to pay their fair share and help move this country forward.

- 3) Do you support a single-payer healthcare system? Why or why not? What will you do to ensure access to high-quality, affordable healthcare?

I strongly believe that healthcare is a human right and that the only way we can get 100% coverage in our country is to enact a federal universal healthcare plan. The Affordable Care Act was a good start and got millions of Americans covered, but there are still people who cannot find coverage or pay for their prescriptions. It's time we look around at every other developed nation and start to get real about our healthcare industry. We need a plan that puts patients above profits, and I will support any plan that gets us to 100% coverage.

- 4) What will you do to defend, strengthen and expand access to Social Security?

The only way we can defend and then expand social security, and make sure every American can retire with dignity, is to flip the house. With all three branches of government under GOP control, social security is on the chopping block. I will oppose raising the retirement age and reducing the annual cost of living adjustment, and I will fight any attempt to privatize

social security. Social security is the promise America has made to workers after years of hard work, and we must keep our promises.

5) What will you do to help the United States establish a fair immigration policy, including recognition of the importance of protecting those seeking political asylum, a clear path to citizenship and protection for recipients of Deferred Action for Early Childhood Arrivals (DACA)?

I strongly support comprehensive immigration reform that includes a pathway to citizenship for our immigrant communities. As the son of two immigrants, I see myself in the Dreamers. These are people who were brought here by no fault of their own and have lived law-abiding lives. Our Dreamers deserve a clean DREAM Act, and they deserve the chance to live their American dream. I stand by Dreamers and will not allow them to be a political football for Donald Trump's wall.

6) Do you support federal action on gun control? If so, what are your priorities for such efforts? If not, why not and what would you do to decrease gun-related violence in the United States? Explain.

I strongly support the following gun safety regulations:

- Universal background checks
- No-fly no-buy
- Closing gun show and private sale loopholes
- Reinstating the assault rifle ban
- Removing gun rights from domestic abusers

As a Deputy District Attorney, I deal with gun violence every day. We need to treat gun safety like the public health epidemic that it is. We must allow gun violence to be researched so we can end mass shootings and gun violence that plagues communities like Fresno across the country.

7) What do you feel can be done to address increased militarization within the United States? Address both militarization within foreign policy, including our increased reliance on military rather than diplomatic solutions to international conflict, and militarization within the United States, including our increased militarization of local law enforcement?

Internationally, we must fill our diplomatic positions with seasoned professionals who can negotiate instead of threaten military action. We need to take steps to lessen our international engagement and allow us to invest our budget into our schools and important programs like universal pre-school. The world has changed and so should our military spending. Domestically, local law enforcement agencies must commit to and invest in community-based policing instead of taking advantage of federal-based programs that bring military surplus items to our streets.

8) What are the four most pressing civil rights issues facing the United States? What could/should Congress do to help address these?

Criminal justice reform, underfunded public schools, voter suppression, and passing an equal rights amendment are all critical civil rights issues that Congress needs to act on. I strongly support criminal justice reform that includes cash bail reform and restructuring outdated and racist federal sentencing guidelines that are based on bad science. I will fight to bring funding to school districts who cannot pass local bonds or measures to increase their funding. In addition to better funding for K-12, I strongly believe we need to fund universal pre-school and day care that will allow all students to enter kindergarten more prepared. Universal pre-school and daycare programs have been proven to have significant effects later in life in efforts to reduce crime, lower drug abuse and prevent homelessness. I will fight to protect our

ballot box and secure our elections by redistricting gerrymandered districts and fighting current voter ID laws that unfairly target communities of color. I believe we need to pass an equal rights amendment to the US Constitution that ensures that all rights guaranteed by the constitution apply equally to all persons regardless of sex. I would support the ERA and would fight to make sure that women are receiving equal pay for equal work.

9) What policies do you support to help reduce the growing economic disparity between the top 10 percent and the bottom 50 percent of the American population? Explain.

The system is rigged; millionaires, billionaires, and big corporation have bought our representatives in Congress. It's time to elect a new generation of leadership who will work for the people, not special interests. I took the pledge to reject all corporate PAC money because I want to set a strong example that you can run for Congress and not be bought by big corporations. I will work to fix corporate loopholes and reverse the recent tax cuts that put the interests of Wall Street over Main Street.

10) Do you support efforts to forgive student loan debt and establish a policy of providing free public higher education in the United States? Explain.

I would strongly support loan forgiveness programs including those that help attract quality candidates into careers in public service and education. As someone who struggles with hundreds of thousands of dollars of student loan debt, I know firsthand the effect this "age" tax is having on our economy. We must reduce the cost of college. I support tuition-free community college initiatives and strongly believe that every California high school graduate should be able to find a seat in one of our fantastic CSUs or UCs.

11) What do you see as the main issues affecting organized labor, and what will you do to support and strengthen access to labor unionization within the United States?

Right to work laws and corporate-funded, GOP-backed court cases like Janus vs. AFSCME are the biggest threats to organized labor and working families across this country. I strongly support workers rights including the right to organize. I will oppose any legislation that attacks our sisters and brothers in labor and promise to be a partner and champion who is accountable and accessible.

12) What will you do to support and protect fairness in voting access, encourage voting participation and combat voter suppression?

Fighting voter suppression and protecting fair voting access is critical to maintain our democracy. I strongly oppose cuts to voting access with unfair and racist voter ID requirements. I will remove barriers to equal political participation of Native Americans. I support voter restoration for those who have served criminal sentences. I will support legislation that works to ensure redistricting takes place in an honest and open way that creates districts that reflects the diversity of the population.

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.