Central Valley Progressive Political Action Committee Endorsement Questionnaire for 2018 Fresno Board of Supervisors Candidates

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

1. What do you see as the most important components in cultivating a productive, cooperative and useful relationship between the Board of Supervisors and city governments in Fresno County?

I believe that communication and collaboration are important components to working with the cities and the county. That is why in my first term as Supervisor I worked with Mayor Lee Brand to create an ad-hoc committee to improve collaboration with the City of Fresno. In addition, we also held a joint meeting between the Board of Supervisors and all the cities within the county to address ways to more efficiently use tax dollars. This approach has earned me bipartisan support from Mayor Lee Brand as well as Mayors, Councilmembers and community leaders from across District 1.

2. Talk about your positions on the environmental problems facing Fresno County. For example, what actions should the Board of Supervisors take to be more proactive in addressing air-quality issues in the Central Valley? Do you support "Fracking" regulations or a ban on "Fracking" in Fresno County? Etc.

The county has worked closely with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District to support programs aimed at removing high-pollution vehicles and pieces of equipment.

- 3. What is your position on high-speed rail? What else could be done to improve accessible and affordable public transportation throughout the county?
- High-speed rail is currently under construction. As a County Supervisor, it is my role to minimize the impact to our residents. The county is actively looking for ways to improve access to affordable transportation. I recently participated in the launch of a pilot program with the State Center Community College and CALSTART to provide rides to students in western Fresno County to Fresno City College using electric, zero emission vehicles. More innovation of this type needs to take place in order to improve our air quality.
- 4. Given the national debate on immigration, what steps, if any, should the Board of Supervisors take to support and defend our immigrant community? In particular, what should the Board do to defend our undocumented neighbors and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients?
- Immigration is a federal issue. As a County Supervisor, there is little official action that I can take. However, like many United States citizens, my family immigrated to the United States in search of a better way of life. We need to have a working immigration policy.
- 5. Many California communities have instituted a rating system on restaurants. What are your feelings on a health rating system for restaurants in Fresno County?

The county's department of Public Health currently inspects and regulates restaurants and various businesses involved in the food supply. They currently have a scoring system in place that is on a points scale.

6. What specifically do you plan to do to ensure Fresno County's stock of affordable, safe and decent housing increases significantly?

Fresno County currently collaborates with the Fresno Housing Authority to provide affordable housing. Several new complexes have been opened up throughout the county.

- 7. Evaluate the Board of Supervisors' current approach to ending homelessness. What, if anything, would you do differently? Include your position on new anti-camping ordinances.
- Fresno County has a standing committee to address homelessness. We have worked collaboratively with the Department of Behavioral Health and Social Services to provide help to those that are seeking assistance. In addition, we have partnered with Bitwise to use MapPoint technology to more efficiently provide services to the homeless. The county has taken a compassionate approach and is actively looking for innovative ideas to help solve this complicated issue.
- 8. What will you do to improve access to quality healthcare and health outcomes within Fresno County? Include in your discussion your priorities for Fresno County funding of drug treatment and mental health treatment programs.

 As a Supervisor, I have been actively supporting funding for programs that address health issues in Fresno County.

 Current Director of Behavioral Health, Dewan Utecht, has aggressively pursued innovative ways to solve some of our most pressing health issues. I will continue to support our departments as they work to improve access to healthcare.
- 9. What will you do to aid communities in Fresno County that are facing challenges accessing clean drinking water? I have actively worked with the State Water Resources Control Board to improve access to clean drinking water that is affordable. I will continue to advocate for clean drinking water.
- 10. In conclusion, please 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.

My priorities as a County Supervisor will continue to be meeting the needs of the residents of District 1. I have been a strong advocate for my constituency on a wide variety of issues. I am proud of the bipartisan support I have received from Mayors, Councilmembers and community leaders from throughout the county and I will continue to use my business experience to improve public safety, increase economic development and help children and families in need.

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.