

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

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Name of Campaign Committee Jose Ornelas for Supervisor 2018

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Candidate's Signature  **Date** 03/05/18

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?

To me the most important components in cultivating a productive, cooperative, and useful relationship between the Board of Supervisors and city governments in Fresno County is to have a effective and open communication relationships that will carry our leadership through challenges, struggles, maximize resources, and take the necessary steps towards our visions. As elected officials, we must represent all constituency in our communities equally.

I see a stronger effort to unite City and County resources to better service all constituency across the city boundaries and county alike. This can not happen without effective working relationship, building trust, and keeping the best interest of the public in the fore front of leadership. We can not afford to ignore our leadership role as public servants.

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.

At this point, I support environment projects and infrastructure that does not contaminate our underground water sources and pollute our air leading to health respiratory health challenges to children with asthma as well as the elderly.

No, at this time, I see "Fracking" as a major man-made disaster due to the Central Valley poor "air-quality" for sensitive groups and the environmental health risks caused by fracking.

3. What is your position on high-speed rail? What else could be done to improve accessible and affordable public transportation throughout the county?

During the initial High-Speed Rail Project, I voted "yes" for the project for several reasons. I supported the high-speed rail, because this project was believed, at the time, by our leaders to bring a better economic opportunity to the City and Fresno County. In reflecting from my initial position or in hindsight, I have re-evaluated my position.

For example, I have seen the new-cost-projections and the job benefits promises depleting since then. I have questions, concerns, and support a close accountable audit before making any refunding or voting on any agenda item. Since we are in the middle of this major funding commitment, I do feel it would be a financial disaster to dump the project after the millions of tax payer monies spent. I still believe that, if we proceed with due caution, the project can bring more jobs and better opportunities to disadvantaged communities in the Central Valley. As a Supervisor, I will advocate to bring more economic opportunities to everyone in the Fresno County

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?

I am in support of arresting criminals and violent offenders who have broken the law. Our current law enforcement need to continue to do their job to keep us safe. I want to be clear when it comes to separating children from their families; this is Un-American. Children should not be stripped from their law-abiding parents with due process. Children and so-called Dreamers are entitled to pursue the American Dream. The Board of Supervisors need to take steps to ensure the all children attend schools without fear of deportation and the fear of coming home to an empty home because ICE took the parents by mistake. This would truly be a living American Nightmare for our children. I would support policies to protect children and keep law-abiding parent united.

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?

I am familiar with formal and informal rating systems that communities participate or engage in social media ratings. It is unique to have multiple rating systems among restaurant owners while respecting the limitation rating criteria for different international cuisine or foods. I personally don't believe in the one-size-rating-fits-all the diverse food options. I say this because, I love the many unique and cultural favors we can find in our city as well as our county.

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

Housing is a major concern for city and county officials. My plan is to bring a business-friendly-developer program to our City and County. I would facilitate the home buying process for families through "first-time" buyer grants, HUD Resources for low-income families, and bring financial agencies to provide the low-interest-rate loans to qualified families.

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.

The current approach to the true "homeless" problem by the Board is not getting the expected results. Most efforts have lead to financial law challenges and for homeless to continue to migrate to different city or county locations that did not have the problem to begin with.

First, my position is to acknowledge that we have a homeless challenge to begin. We can not begin to take steps with accepting we have a major challenge from the start.

Second, we need to provide portable showers, restrooms, and trash bins to prevent loitering.

Third, the City and County Leadership needs research effective "homeless" program that have improve the conditions for other cities.

Finally, we can replicate or take positive steps to mitigate the matter with spreading to these city and county challenges. My position is that one or ten anti-camping ordinances fails to address the problem and continue to populate our jails. Our city and county continue to drain our resources without a focus goal.

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.

My priorities for Fresno County is to continue to provide healthcare services to all residents through our health clinics and medical care agencies. I plan to support all federal programs that provides health coverage to those with the greatest needs; children, working families, and elderly. I will support all government health subsidies to help all families obtain access to healthcare at the city and county level.

Regarding the drug treatment and mental health challenges, I plan to prioritize an education component in the city and county. Having an effective educational program, residents will be able to make better health choices and avoid draining our social services. I will support funding to drug programs that gradually and effectively removes the addiction or drug craving patients in combination with educational programs.

In addition, I will support and vote to assist families with mental health care needs and provide proper services within the city and county.

9. What will you do to aid communities in Fresno County that are facing challenges accessing clean drinking water?

I have been part of a Well Untapped Program. I have learned about the scarce of clean and safe drinking water our San Joaquin Central Valley communities are facing every day. This is an issue that I will advocate strongly for the City of Fresno and every community within Fresno County to ensure clean drinking water at a low cost. At this moment, most families in the City of Fresno and rural communities in Fresno County do not trust tapped water as a clean drinking water source. California is the 6th largest economy in the world and we are dealing with a third world issue when it comes to clean water sources in the Valley. I am afraid this concern continues to be a problem for many Valley families. With the help of Government agencies, we can provide ways to help all families access to safe drinking water for the present time and long-term. The City and the County of Fresno residents will experience many health complications, if we fail to act. Our leaders need to take appropriate steps to safeguard our clean water sources or suffer greatly for the lack of action. As your supervisor, I will make sure to do my job and provide a better-quality water solution for all City and Fresno County residents.

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).

The top three issues that I consider to be my priority are Proving Safe and Clean Drinking Water, City and County Safety at large, and Equal Representation for all resident. Again, everyone deserves access to clean drinking water.

As your supervisor, I will be committed to having more youth development programs and promote safe schools within our communities. I will make sure our local government is accountable with our City and County needs. I will advocate for equal access to services, representation, and collaborate with all residents regarding the problems and concerns our community face. As your Supervisor, I will work with efficiency, professionalism, and discipline.

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.