

Central Valley Progressive Political Action Committee
Endorsement Questionnaire for Fresno City Council Candidates

Name Jose Barraza District # 5

Name of Campaign Committee Jose Barraza for Fresno City Council 5

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Candidate's Signature  Date April 10, 2018

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

- 1) As a City Council member, describe what you will do in each of the following areas:
 - a) Improving air quality-Will make the funding of parks and recreational facilities higher priority for our City
 - b) Improving Fresno's public transportation levels of service-Promote the use of buses and encourage the reduction of use of personal vehicles, expand access to buses
 - c) Reducing urban sprawl-Promote construction of infill projects and higher density to make more efficient use of land within the current sphere of influence boundary.
 - d) Supporting high-speed rail-Promote the hiring of local employees and purchase supplies from local business owners to demonstrate the economic benefits of this project in addition to reducing the emission of air contamination.

- 2) What specifically do you plan to do to ensure that Fresno's stock of affordable, safe and decent housing increases significantly while you're on the City Council? Include in your answer if you support and would you strengthen a comprehensive routine interior code inspection program for rental housing? Encourage the investment of qualify affordable housing in all parts of our city with the objective that blight be eliminated from low income communities. Improve the earning power of residents so that they can afford the purchase of a home, this means providing training and employment opportunities in partnership with community-based organizations. I would support a routine interior code inspection program that targets landlords that do not comply with building standards and safety codes. I would make sure that the program really identify violators and not create a bureaucracy that is costly for nothing.

A community organization I founded entered into an agreement with the Cesar Chavez Foundation supporting the construction of 130 apartments subsidized with State and Federal funds and also entered into a Memorandum of Understanding for the creation of a preapprenticeship program to train and hire workers in the construction of that apartment project to be built on Kings Canyon Road. I am chairman of the Board of the Southeast Fresno Community Economic Development Association, the agency that implements that project.

- 3) Evaluate the successes and failures of City Hall's approach to ending homelessness and what, if anything, you would do differently. Include your position on the new anti-camping ordinance. The City of Fresno needs to take a more comprehensive approach to helping the homeless. This should

be a multi-agency approach that includes State, Federal, County and City agencies. The homeless problem is complex that involves drug and alcohol addiction, emotional and psychological problems, inadequate training and job skills and lack of community resources that address their needs. Partial success of the City is that the Police Department now involves other disciplines when they contact the homeless and this is the start of dealing with the roots of this problem.

- 4) What do you see as the most important components in cultivating a productive and cooperative and useful relationship between the Board of Supervisors and the City Council? I worked 34 years for the County of Fresno in the Fresno Administrative Office and have extensive expertise in working out win-win proposals that improve the quality of life of residents. Before I retired from County employment I negotiated tax-sharing agreements between the City of Fresno and the County of Fresno and created a partnership between 14 cities and the county in providing tax credits to small businesses. Proposals must be win-win where all parties benefit and an important component has to be mutual trust that is achieved by obtaining results in those partnerships.

Police accountability in Fresno has been a longstanding concern of the progressive community. What exactly do you propose to require greater accountability of the police to the citizenry of Fresno, especially in interactions within neighborhoods of color and the LGBTQ community? The City police department should encourage ongoing participation of residents and LGBTQ community to have an ongoing dialogue with Police Management on issues, perceptions, interactions where the behavior of police officers at times is insensitive and the police department must be made aware about how the community perceives the behavior of the police department. I was member of a Southeast Fresno Police Advisory Committee and found that those discussions with police management officials was beneficial for both the police staff and for residents in that those discussions and feedback both ways improve mutual understanding of the roles of all parties. At the end the objective should be to have mutual respect and tolerance and eliminate abusive behaviors.

- 5) Given national attacks on immigrants, what steps should the City Council take to support our vibrant immigrant community, especially our undocumented neighbors and DACA recipients? Our City should support the program recently proposed by religious organizations for the City to join and support providing legal advice to undocumented residents. Council Member Chavez the incumbent should have supported that proposal. He is a Democrat only when it serves his reelection needs but his voting record does not reflect that. This endorsement process should be accountability time.
- 6) The city has uneven park and green space distribution. What are two specific ways to address this issue, ensuring more access to green space, particularly in low-income neighborhoods? I support efforts to take to the voters a sales tax increase to be used for the funding of parks and recreational facilities in the City of Fresno. I have created a Joint Powers Authority in Southeast Fresno to challenge the City of Fresno for not doing anything on a 49-acre park site that was donated to the City of Fresno 12 years ago and not a single tree has been planted on that site. Our Joint Powers Authority has adopted that 49 park site and is raising funds to develop a regional park and soccer complex on that site. We are applying for State and Federal funds to develop this project and have recruited volunteers and donation of services to create a community-supported park project. If elected I will make the funding of parks a higher priority for our City.
- 7) What is your stand on unions and unionization? What will you do to support city workers? Workers should have the right to get organized and the City of Fresno should set the example in providing

adequate compensation and benefits to its workers. Employees that do not receive adequate compensation quit and that brings turnover. Workers should be encouraged to stay as long as possible because excessive turnover increases training costs and is less efficient.

- 8) What is your position on medical marijuana and recreational marijuana dispensaries within the city? I support the use of marijuana for medical purposes and would like to have more information on the impact that recreational marijuana has on local communities.

- 9) 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). The top three priorities for my campaign are:

Poverty. The lack of adequate resources to buy a home, to purchase health insurance coverage and to feed the family are basic necessities that our City leaders should be addressing more directly. I created the Southeast Fresno Community Economic Development Association to address those problems. For the last six years after my retirement from County employment, we have been promoting job training and employment opportunities for the residents of Southeast Fresno to improve conditions where they live.

Parks and Recreational Facilities. This issue has been a very important priority as demonstrated by our success in adopting a 49-acre park site that the City of Fresno has abandoned because they claim there are no financial resources available. We are planning to clean this site with the help of volunteers, will be planting 120 trees and grass and will start creating picnic areas and trails through the Adopt A Park project approved by the Fresno City Council two months ago. Our long term goal is to create a community-supported regional park and soccer complex on this site.

Public Safety. I believe that our community should have adequate public safety that is obtained through creative means. And that means making parks and green space available to our youth and families to create the availability of after school programs that involve positive activities.

On April 20, 2018 the Central Democratic Committee will be recognizing me for my work in getting residents involved in promoting conditions that improve quality of life and the health of residents in our City. That can be accomplished by improving the earning power of residents and providing access to parks for the residents of Southeast Fresno as close as possible to where we live.

In conclusion. I hope you hold our Democrat elected officials accountable to our community. My involvement in the improvement of Southeast Fresno speaks for itself. I hope I may have the honor of receiving your endorsement and help me in getting elected as the Fresno City Council to represent the residents of District 5.

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.