

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

Name Miguel Arias District # 3  
Name of Campaign Committee Miguel Arias for Council 2018  
Address 2881 Huntington Blvd #243 City Fresno Zip 93721  
E-mail miguel.arias4council@gmail.com  
Web Site www.miguelarias4council.com  
Phone (559) 906-1443 Campaign Manager \_\_\_\_\_  
Candidate's Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

As a City Council member, describe what you will do in each of the following areas:

Improving air quality:

I will actively engage our local and regional government entities to do what is within their purview to improve our air quality, by:

- Expanding Fresno Unified School District's air monitor pilot program at Vang Pao Elementary so we can accurately measure air quality, and promptly suspend outdoor activities when necessary
- Opposing any future industrial development projects (such as distribution centers) unless they include meaningful mitigation of environmental impacts (such as using clean burning trucks)
- Pursuing policy changes at the regional level that reduce or eliminate ag burning
- Encouraging increased use of electric vehicles such as the Fresno City College shuttle from Kerman and downtown Fresno to Fresno City College
- Actively supporting Measure P, which will significantly increase the availability of green space throughout our city

Improving Fresno's public transportation levels of service:

I will work to improve Fresno's public transportation by:

- Expanding nontraditional hours of operation for bus routes especially in south Fresno.
- Promoting integrated technology across our bus system so that riders can track their route activity through GPS,
- Install access WiFi on all public buses.

Reducing urban sprawl:

District 3 has the most to gain from reducing sprawl and promoting inclusive development. To do this end, I will:

- Develop a reinvestment fund for downtown, Southwest Fresno and Chinatown, and ensure their revitalization does not result in displacement of current residents
- Upgrade and reinvest in existing neighborhood infrastructure. Systems like State Center Community College District have done this by building new campuses within the city limits, which spurs growth of mixed income housing projects
- Pursue a city-wide anti-displacement policy, consistent with state and federal housing law

Supporting high-speed rail- Encourage HSR activity from the City Council;

District 3 is uniquely positioned to shape future HSR activity. I plan to maximize HSR's benefit to local residents by developing a comprehensive downtown plan through a master agreement that facilitates additional housing, retail and commercial uses in the HSR station's sphere of influence

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?

The Rental Housing Inspection Act has established a policy foundation to address Fresno's slum housing crisis. Interior inspections are a positive step forward, and should be expanded to include properties owned or operated by associations. I will promote timely and effective implementation of the ordinance by requesting a full audit of inspection activity to date, as well as pursuing/supporting litigation against well known slumlords. I will also call for mandatory lead testing of water sources at their point of consumption in rental properties. Tenants have a right to decent housing, as well as knowing if their water is safe to drink. Lastly, I'll work to ensure that north motel drive is torn down and replaced with mixed income housing development.

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 has failed to address the root cause of homelessness, and to provide transitional and permanent housing options. I will continue to explore the continuum of care approach, which requires multiple government agencies to take their share of responsibility, and has shown some progress. The city's failure to establish and implement a comprehensive housing policy, as noted by HUD/HCD findings, is also something I would address since it is one of the root causes of homelessness.

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?

An effective councilmember must understand the role, responsibility and resources of each government entity, and have the relationships necessary to advocate for their constituents. The county receives significant resources, which should be leveraged for the benefit of all residents. District 3 residents will benefit from my strong working relationships with members of the BOS as well as rural mayors and city managers who serve on LAFCO, the transportation commission, and other cross-jurisdictional bodies. Equally important are the numerous school districts and college district that serve District 3 residents. Our campaign has received support from all these entities.

5) 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?

I will support existing community based projects such as HEAT (Hiring, Equipment, Accountability, Training), led by Faith in Fresno. With adequate support from city leaders, these projects

can be an effective platform for pursuing meaningful community conversation that leads to needed reform. Additionally, I will oppose any further militarization of local police functions, and promote community policing (including hiring officers from places they will patrol). The upcoming hiring of the new police chief will also present a unique opportunity to engage community in setting the tone for policing reform.

6) 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?

First and most urgent, I would call for the city to fund the Deportation Legal Defense Fund, and ask for a match from other local systems. Further, I would promote the continued development and resourcing of local capacity for rapid response and deportation legal defense. Additionally, I will advocate for CDBG funds to be utilized to support more immigrant residents toward naturalization.

7) 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?

As a signature of Measure P, I am in full support of Measure P, and would also call for new infill developments to incorporate green space amenities.

8) What is your stand on unions and unionization? What will you do to support city workers?

I support labor unions and workers' right to organize, as reflected by my CLC endorsement and the successful approval of our 4-year agreement with all labor groups at State Center Community College District. As councilmember, I will engage in fair and transparent negotiations, and will continue to oppose any attempt to outsource public functions, such as Measure G.

9) What is your position on medical marijuana and recreational marijuana dispensaries within the city?

I fully support the implementation of Proposition 64, as did the majority of Fresno County voters who approved it. In my role as a city leader, I will ensure that diverse, local cannabis businesses can participate in this emerging industry, while ensuring the safety and prosperity of our neighborhoods. Further, I believe that 50 percent of local tax revenues should be invested in community benefits, rather than investing them all in law enforcement.

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).

You can count on me to oppose Donald Trump's policies on issues like immigration and corporate welfare. Locally, I will continue to oppose further corporate tax incentives that deplete our general fund and produce minimum wage jobs with no mobility. As reflected in my answers to the previous questions, my agenda includes important social justice issues like police and housing reform.

Thank you so much for your time and energy in completing this questionnaire. Your answers will be distributed to our members prior to the September 8 endorsement meeting through the CVPPAC Website.

Please return this questionnaire by email to Mike Rhodes < mikerhodes@comcast.net >. The deadline is Sunday, September 2 at 11:59 p.m. If you have any questions, call CVPPAC president Pam Whalen at (559) 994-9390.