

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

Name Luis Chavez District # 5
Name of Campaign Committee Luis Chaves for Council 2018
Address 1625 E Shaw Ave Ste 130 City Fresno Zip 93710
E-mail laconsulting.mpa@gmail.com
Web Site http://www.chavezforcitycouncil5.com
Phone (559) 824-5458 Campaign Manager Mark Scozzari/Jason Carns

Candidate's Signature _____
Date 08/29/18

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:
 - b. Improving air quality: Providing other options besides driving is key to this and public transportation is squarely the city's responsibility. As someone who will represent a disadvantaged district, many of my residents are also dependent on public transportation options. Having been at city hall for the last 8 years, I have worked to ensure southeast Fresno received the bus rapid transit line (rendering bus service every 10 minutes). I will always be a champion of improving the bus service in Fresno and adding bike lanes and walkable trails, sidewalks and safe routes to schools. I have a voting record (Fresno unified) of partnering with the air district board and reducing diesel fuel school buses and transitioning our fleet to clean energy sources, adding bicycle parking areas within schools, the community and parks. In addition, the air board needs to have community representatives, not just elected officials, and ensure the public interest is represented when crafting policy within our region.
 - c. Improving Fresno's public transportation levels of service: As I stated under air quality, many of the residents of my district are dependent on public transportation and I strongly support improvements. The bus system needs greater hours, greater frequency, expanded service, and more secure bus stops. This will be one of my top priorities as the councilman. With the Bus rapid transit system being implemented, we need to ensure that the service meets the needs of the community. I have a track record of working to ensure seniors, students (a large part of daily bus service users) have access to shaded canopy bus stops, well-lit and safe bus stops (solar powered). I will continue that approach as the councilmember. Last week, I rode the bus (as I do periodically) to ensure we have good customer service and hear from riders themselves on the rates and quality of service.
 - d. c) Reducing urban sprawl: I think a huge key to investing in infill development is to make the core of our city a desirable place to live, as someone who represents an urban district, I will do this, whether creating greater public transportation opportunities, greater park space, and ensuring that the infrastructure on the south side gets the attention it deserves. We also need to create more incentives for businesses to stay in the core of our city and work with the housing authority, habitat for humanity and increase the amount of affordable housing across the city. Earlier this year I drafted and passed the "support small business act" to incentivize small local business owners to relocate and/or expand into Southeast Fresno (it passed anonymously). In the future

development should be structured to pay for itself, allowing us to maintain the older neighborhoods long term.

- e. d) Supporting high-speed rail: Encourage HSR activity from the City Council; I am a supporter of high speed rail. High speed rail is providing jobs and infrastructure upgrades to the Fresno area, and once the full line is built it will transform the economic vitality of the valley for generations to come. The city has been a key partner for the HSRA and will continue to collaborate, especially in bringing the coveted high-speed rail maintenance yard, bringing thousands of jobs to our region.

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?

We need to work with the housing authority, housing non-profits, state and federal government to leverage every resource available and invest in good quality housing within our city. The other thing we need to do is provide incentives to developers to rehabilitate our present housing stock in disadvantaged neighborhoods and capitalize on the Bus Rapid Transit system we are currently investing in. I am currently working with the Cesar Chavez foundation to build good quality housing along the Kings Canyon corridor, including a park, bus stop and community center (all in one location). Those are projects that can benefit an entire community and simultaneously address our housing shortage. Affordable housing shouldn't just be concentrated in one part of the city, it should include all parts of the city. I am supportive of the rental housing inspection program and was the deciding vote in passing the program.

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 primary responsibility of addressing the homeless problem lays at the feet of the county. The county has the social service functions and receives the money to combat homelessness. With the recession and cutbacks, the county scaled back this responsibility forcing the city of Fresno to try and do what we can with limited resources. I think some aspects of the city's policy has been positive such as housing first in attempting to get the long term homeless with ties to Fresno housing. I think other aspects of the city's policy such as scattering the homeless throughout the community further away from services that can assist them has been a challenge. The city needs to explore securing a location to provide mental health, substance abuse treatment and assistance to homeless folks, especially those that never recovered from the great recession. There needs to be a basic human decency standard on how we treat our fellow human beings. The city owns several parcels, near the rescue mission and Poverello house, we should look at partnering with CBO's and the construction trades on exploring the building of "mini houses" and concentrating services as a "one stop shop" for the indigent. I voted to support the no camping ordinance, however, I was also the council member that modified the ordinance from the dais to ensure we facilitate services to homeless folks, in lieu of jail time and/or fines. I used the old proposition 36 model of including services for folks rather than a punitive approach. In addition, as I've become more educated on the issue of

homelessness, I've learned to see things in a more humanistic manner, instead of just crime/punishment. I'm currently working to develop a comprehensive approach to addressing the homeless problem in Fresno. City hall tends to often make matters worse rather than help, a humanistic approach, I believe, will be more effective short and long term for Fresno.

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?

This is very important, much of the Sunnyside county island is in my direct, where the city and county share jurisdiction. Many of the city problems need the county to help reduce and/or eliminate neighborhood issues, the homeless problem is a perfect example, since most of the social service dollars reside with the county. As most know I have a very strong relationship with Supervisor Sal Quintero, and the rest of the supervisors. I continually work with him on areas where the city and county can have greater collaboration, land use development, water systems, health clinics and services. I will continue to collaborate with the county and all relevant stakeholders.

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?

Ultimately, I have great respect for our new District Attorney Lisa Sondergaard Smittcamp who has made clear she intends to address any acts of law enforcement abuse of the residents, and any officer who violates the law should be held fully accountable just like any other citizen. I also believe that Police Officers can't do the work alone; we must work as a community to ensure greater communication between residents and the police. Recently, there has been a focus on media events regarding incidents between people of color and law enforcement; however, we are missing an opportunity to talk about the underlying root of why there's so much rage, frustration and concern from residents. I believe, the causes of these incidents are poverty, record high unemployment, low educational attainment levels, lack of economic opportunities and years of neglect and disinvestment in certain neighborhoods. The city, school districts, county and community leaders need to come together and work towards solutions.

I believe and support community-based policing, rather than just crime/punishment. The recent actions against members of the LGBTQ community are unacceptable, specifically the transgender individual that was stabbed and killed on Blackstone. We need members of our community to bridge the gap of trust that exist between our police department and folks from under represented communities.

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?

It is not the job of local law enforcement to enforce federal immigration law, it is counterproductive creating mistrust between law enforcement and the immigrant community we need to partner with to combat crime inner neighborhoods.

I am a strong supporter of keeping local law enforcement focused on combatting violent and property crimes. I am also a strong supporter of DACA and have a track record of voting on these issues. As a school board member, I created the model for Dreamers inner educational system to revive support and services to help them overcome their challenges, that laid the foundation for the creation of the district wide dream center in FUSD. Additionally, I secured funding for our immigrant community to have citizenship and ESL classes in their home schools, to eliminate transportation and language barriers. In addition, I led the effort to draft and pass an English learner master plan at Fresno Unified to ensure Spanish and Hmong students received a quality education- regardless of where they lived. I'm currently working with organizations to establish an immigrant advisory committee to gain input from our immigrant community on how the city can best serve them (housing, business, services, language barriers, international flight wait times at our airport, etc.).

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?

I voted to put the Parks tax measure P on the ballot, this is a very generous tax that will do much to improve our park facilities. If the voters pass this, we will invest more in parks. However, if this measure fails, we will have to get creative in creating more green space in our city. I have a track record of doing that. While I was president of Fresno Unified I opened schools as parks and green space (as well as pools). We will need to look at expanding this model to allow our children access to these amenities. Fresno Unified has 104 areas of green space that sit idle in the afternoons and summers- we need to expand that program and give access to the neighborhoods.

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

I have always been a strong supporter of labor throughout my career on the school board and as a city councilmember, and this has continually earned me the endorsements of the labor unions. I have been a strong partner with them on creating good paying jobs. I have been in the trenches fighting against Measure G. I was one of the first elected that came out against it and walked precincts to defeat it. I have the endorsement of the CLC, Trades, Fire and POA.

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

I've been through an educational process on this matter. While I have concerns over recreational use/ regulations, I am a supporter of medical marijuana. Marijuana is one of the most powerful pain killers out there and has a lot fewer side effects than the traditional pharmaceutical options. I have seen firsthand how a child that suffers from epilepsy attacks can benefit from this plant. The state of California has voted to legalize recreational marijuana and it will eventually come to the city of Fresno. However, the city of Fresno is obligated to implement this in a way that will not harm or endanger our residential neighborhoods, school sites, parks, etc. I voted to place taxing medical marijuana on the ballot for November 2018.

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).

1. I am a supporter of labor and bargaining rights, to a living wage and benefits. This has earned me the continued support of our labor unions. The work of our labor brothers and sisters has been a driving force in my up-bringing, having had a parent that was a union member growing up. Labor groups are the backbone of the middle class and I support that.
2. I support of high speed rail, something that can truly transform our community for the better.
3. The homeless challenge is something I will tackle in my tenure at city hall, many electeds are scared to touch the issue. However, I believe it is time we addressed the 800-pound gorilla in the room in a multi-faceted, comprehensive manner, our community deserves a real solution. I look forward to working with people that have extensive experience in this area.

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.