

Central Valley Progressive Political Action Committee
Endorsement Questionnaire for SCCCD Trustee Candidates

Name: **Magdalena Gomez** District # **4**
Name of Campaign Committee: **GOMEZ FOR SCCCD TRUSTEE AREA 4, 2018**
Address: **PO BOX 1233** City: **SELMA** Zip: **93662**
E-mail: **mg8607@gmail.com**
Web Site: **www.vote4gomez.com**
Phone: **559-353-1253**
Campaign Manager: **RUBEN ZARATE**
Candidate's Signature: **MAGDALENA GOMEZ**
Date **SEPTEMBER 2, 2018**

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

1. What do you see as the role of an SCCCD Trustee and what in your background qualifies you? Include why you want to be a Trustee in your answer to this question.

Answer: I believe my role as a trustee is to create trust between the administration, faculty and students. We all need to work in partnership so that every college instructor has the necessary tools to teach their subject and create a positive environment for their students. As a trustee, restoring a faculty members faith, that the administration is with them, not against them, is important to me. I plan to facilitate conversations with all to make it a win-win environment for all.

In my role with different labor unions, I have been given the privilege to run multiple campaigns that support education funding (prop 30/prop 55) and I have always strived to bring funding that promotes a rise in socio-economic change for the betterment of working families lives. I have also worked with FUSD/FTA to better relationships with their bargaining agreements and bring in a community voice that empowers students and parents. By using my labor and finance background, along with my community organizing experience, I hope to not only bring respect to all corners of the campus, but also create college accessibility to rural residents, promote career technical education to prepare our rural residents for the job of tomorrow and to make sure that educators, staff and students, get their fair share.

2. What role does the SCCCD play in the community and what would you do to insure student access to the district colleges and their courses?

Answer: Living in the rural communities creates a disadvantage for students who want to pursue higher education. Already some kids don't have a high school in their communities, much less a Community College. Transportation is a huge problem in the rural communities, not just getting to college, but even getting a hospital. I will work with other elected in my district to provide more transportation funding for college students to and from their rural towns and to different community colleges. The community college

system is the best in the nation and California has the top system, however, if students, can't get to and from, then getting a AA degree or a professional certificate or learning English to become a U.S. citizen will not be possible. Thus, individuals will have a socio-economic disadvantage and will not be able to compete for good paying jobs.

3. What will you do to insure that the SCCCCD Measure C Bond monies will be spent as promised and that minority and small businesses are effectively represented in the bidding process?

Answer: Fiscal Accountability is part of my platform. I will ensure that the bond oversight committee reviews and audits all expenditures from bond proceeds. I want to make sure that the funds will be used in the manner that the bond was written. I want for students who attend the Reedley College District to get their fair piece of the pie. However, I want to be an advocate for other SCCCCD campuses and work with other trustees to make classes more accessible to all given the increase in student enrollments.

As a prior member of a building trades union, part of my job was compliance and policy review in the bidding process of all prevailing wage projects within my assignment area. I am knowledgeable about the process and plan to review and ask questions of the process.

4. Do you support the federal and California versions of the DREAM Act? Why?

Answer: I am one of the founders of the FULL RIGHTS FOR IMMIGRANTS IN LOS ANGELES. Prior to that, as a student, I campaigned against Prop 187 (anti-immigrant legislation). Coming from an immigrant family, whose family worked for the UFW to pass the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) in 1986, I have grown up fighting for my own family to reunite with their own families from Mexico. I will continue being a champion for immigration reform and lobbying Sacramento and Washington D.C. as I did for the DREAM ACT in 2001 with Congressman Luis Gutierrez. In all, I want Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CIR) and not just the DREAM Act, but for now, realistically, I have to focus on electing people to Congress to change things. My campaign is being lead by several DACA students. We are a team championing higher education, but also fighting for our parents, brothers and sisters to stay in this country and not get separated.

5. The five components of the Community College Completion Arch are 1) Enrollment, 2) Developmental Education Placement, 3) Progress, 4) Transfer & Completion, and 5) Workforce Preparation and Employment Outcomes. As a Trustee what do you believe your role should be to ensure students entering your campuses leave prepared to transfer to 4-year institutions and/or the "World of Work"? How do you plan to work with your fellow trustees to make sure the Completion Arch is at the forefront when approving programs and the District's Budgets?

Answer: As a trustee, I plan to be heavily involved with the community in promoting the community college system. For some, being a community college student maybe a change in profession and for others it maybe technical training that leads to a certificate, or an educational avenue that is close to home that will eventually lead a student to transfer to a 4-year college. Whatever a community college students plans are, I believe that a trustee should be visible on campus and get to know the administrators, faculty and students in order to make sure that all admin departments, faculty and adjunct professors have the support to teach students so that the students may find employment in their field of choice/study. If current systems are not working, then we must find solutions that benefit our students, rather than allow them to fall through the cracks, creating a drop out situation. If we are funding student programs, but not enough students are taking advantage of them, then we must either market them differently, or utilize that money to create better student access. All programs funded should have accountability and measurements of success.

As a trustee, I plan to communicate with other trustees so that each of our community colleges can accommodate the needs of our faculty and students. Students from different parts of Madera/Fresno will travel to take coursework at different campuses, therefore we must all work together to continue to be second to none in the community college system. Our agenda should be students first.

6. What will you do to further the K-12 & Community College Summit results to help make sure students are ready for college when they graduate high school (recent data shows that FUSD has less than 5% ready)?

Answer: In my work with the Fresno Teachers Association, I was made aware of some alarming elementary school testing results. I am currently working with teachers and school board members within the city of Fresno, but in my role as Trustee at Reedley College, which encompasses over 10 towns, I would build relationships with local school board members, principals, superintendents and local teachers associations to facilitate dialogue and try to provide leadership and resources down the education pipeline.

7. Do you support community college classes on the history of Social Movements, Organizing, and Labor Studies?

Answer: In my prior work with the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA), I taught labor studies/contract negotiations classes to high school students in LAUSD. I would not only like to add Labor Studies, Organizing and Social Movement classes on community college campuses, but extend it to high school students in Fresno County.

8. Why should the CVPPAC endorse you for SCCCDC Trustee?

Answer: I believe I share the same values as the CVPPAC members and your financial support would help me champion our shared causes on labor, education, and immigration.

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.