

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

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

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

Answer: **I see the role of the Board Trustee as an intricate part of the educational responsibility of supporting both the President and the Chancellor of each college site and hold them to account if they are to fall short in doing so. I believe that I can play an honest and active role, but especially an authentic one when it would come to ensuring that students educational goals are met without prejudice, nepotism and any other negative conflict that can arise in each of their time spent in school. I bring to the table a long list of life's cold and hard punches, what this means I have experienced many hardships and know the struggle is first hand as a student and in career. I have worked in advocating for developmentally disabled adults and children off and on for 10 yrs. which is near and dear to my heart given my older son has a learning disability. In this field it is difficult to find good and caring people. I am not a politician, nor do I aspire to be one, I am a single parent of 2 sons who will continue my efforts to make a change no matter the position I am in. I have made it my mission to do so.**

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

Answer: **I would participate in various organizations that are involved with student issues in our community and remain informed with state and national issues and trends that can help my district rise to the level and potential that it should be. It is very important to weaponize the mind and not guns. They both have the potential in making or breaking someone, however, the mind and what we put into it is a lasting contribution to both body and spirit. Supporting students in my district would be an honor because of the location of the students in this district. They would be coming from impoverished areas of Fresno and need a leg up in fleeing from there geographical position, however, their fighting spirit to succeed is what I would like to assist them in.**

**I always thought that housing and transportation for community colleges should be part of a student's program. These students come from chronically homeless situations that play a role in their completion of college. Having housing near**

**campus that can be paid for would be of great assistance to this demographic along with providing an uber like transportation system only accessible to college students.**

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

**Answer: As I mentioned earlier, I am a single parent of two that had been unemployed and nearly lost everything but my hope, this I kept. I became very frugal with every dollar I had. I believe that I can ensure that the monies that come from Measure C Bond are spent responsibly and with transparency and definitely no Quid Pro Quo/pay to play intentions would ever be extended. There is so much dishonesty when it comes to the handling of large sums of monies and I want to be the eyes and ears of those that put their faith in those with the power. It is only fair that all businesses have access to the bidding process and no one cuts in line because they are friends with the President or Chancellors (hypothetically). We need trustees to remember why they are where they are because they were elected to represent the voter's and their concerns and remain nothing short of fair.**

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

**Answer: Yes and No, the thing with the dream act it has an expiration date. That is why Trump is attempting to roll back opportunities for students that grew up here but were not born here, causing this uproar in Congress and putting pressure to build a wall or end DACA. It is being used for political purposes when there are student lives and futures at stake. DACA should also have no age cap to qualify, being that many students attend college in their 30's to 40's to change careers. You have women that must work as maids or nannies and would love the opportunity to become educated and change their work for a less laborious one. Also, there would probably be a drop in fraudulent marriages if there was access to college and be granted legal status.**

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: The trustee's role would be that he or she ensure that the fiduciary component is carried out when it comes down to budgets and allocating of funds towards the Completion Arch, because it is easy to make failed promises. When you fail in carrying out this mission the students pay with a mediocre education and a higher dropout rate. As one member of the Board I would make sure the other board trustees are in sync with this mission of student's success and by**

**communicating and holding each other accountable and transparent. No other funding should go to other projects unrelated to Completion Arch.**

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: Being that community colleges have a high enrollment rate of low-income and minority students, I would recommend the completion of remedial Math & English courses in high school as oppose to doing them in community colleges (it's not cost effective). College is tough as it is and having to do course work that should have been completed in high school just seems time consuming where they can already be tackling their AA or general education to transfer to a state campus. Also having vocational/career testing in high school so the student can have some idea of what classes they want before matriculating into city college in part because of high school campuses already offering some vocational courses like Poly-tech. Having services for emotional/physical well-being on campuses is very important to me, students can take advantage of this for medical internships. Offering paid internships or trainings in their desired field can be an incentive to complete their classes, I feel the classes that are mandatory for transfer can be a bit much and needs some slimming down, for example pottery as an elective, this is a bit much. Straight to the required course work for Nursing or Police Academy is something we need to work on and stop wasting time on electives.**

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

**Answer: I absolutely support this. Having students learn of what is going on around them is very important in providing them with a well-rounded education. With everything that is going on in this current climate we must be well equipped on how to survive these difficult times. I fear for both my sons, one in elementary and the other already in the workforce. The one in elementary because of gunmen attacks and the other one because of his low wages. If you sit still and do nothing, you will get nothing. Our voice is our power and our mind is our weapon, the two in union can make all the difference in the world.**

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

**Answer: I ask myself the same question, and my only answer is this, we only have one lifetime, and, in my lifetime, I want to make a difference. I don't hold all the answers of all that is ailing our communities, but I do have an authentic since of caring and love for people of all walks of life. When I see someone in the street that needs water a get them a water bottle. This is how I view life now, when I see my community in need I want to be the one that provides them the water they need. I can say that this is just the beginning of my journey to help where I can and to do what needs to be done. Thank you for your consideration.**

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.