

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

Name Annalisa Perea District # 5

Name of Campaign Committee Perea for SCCCD Trustee Area 5 2018

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Candidate's Signature 

Date 6/27/18

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:

My role will be to craft policies that are in the best interest of students, District teachers/staff, and the greater Central Valley as a whole. I'll be tasked to work closely with District staff and my fellow Trustees to ensure we have the votes to carry forth important issues that positively impact our communities. As a City Planner in the private sector, I get contracted by cities all across the Valley to help them create policies that allow them to implement their visions. A big component of this is public outreach. In many cases, I'm tasked with organizing various outreach events for cities to ensure that citizen feedback is heard. This builds trust and increases transparency between government and citizens. It's hard to achieve this in bigger cities which is why I enjoy working in small cities to create a greater sense of accountability with participatory government. I'll bring my background in policy-making, along with my ability to engage the community to the board in order to have the community play a more active role with decision-making.

Community college provided me with an affordable option to begin my college career. I took my general education at Fresno City College (FCC) prior to transferring to Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and graduating with a degree in City & Regional Planning. When I returned to the Central Valley to begin my career as a local Planner, I continued to take courses at FCC to build upon my skillsets. As a Trustee, I'll take my experiences and ensure that every community member, whether straight out of high school, or a mid-

level adult wanting to learn new skills, has affordable access to achieve their educational goals. Setting up our community members for educational success will directly contribute to the economic growth of our Valley.

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:

SCCCD serves as a critical juncture for many individuals as they make those next-step decisions for their educational and career pathways. I strongly support the continued success and expansion of "Pathways," a sequence of courses taken at the community college level that guarantees students admission to the CSU or UC system. This provides our lower-income students a more economical path by allowing them to take courses at a community college with the promise of transferring to a CSU or UC. It's also critical to ensure that students have the classes they need to graduate or transfer on-time.

Area 5 covers a predominantly lower-income part of the Fresno area. It includes the Tower District, Downtown, Southeast Fresno, and portions of West Fresno and the unincorporated community of Calwa. It's critical SCCCD provides increased access for students to attend college. This means that either we bring the campuses to the students, or we bring the students to the campuses. This is why I'll be a strong advocate to ensure an expedited completion of the West Fresno community college campus and the Southeast Fresno First Responders' Training Facility. I will also be a supporter of expanding the current Bolt to College program. This is an on-demand ride-sharing program (like uber or lyft) that utilizes electric Chevy Bolts to transfer students between Kerman and FCC. This is an innovative way to utilize green technology to serve our students, while bettering our community. I'll work to identify funding opportunities to expand this program to offer this service to other rural communities.

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:

My duty as a Trustee will be to approve critical budget expenditures and to protect student and taxpayer dollars. This includes ensuring that the Measure C Bond dollars are spent the way the taxpayers approved them to be spent. This is one of the biggest concerns I've heard when walking precincts and talking to voters. They're looking for strong representation that will ask the right questions if it's clear that the dollars are being diverted elsewhere.

I'll support a local hire bidding process that gives priority consideration to minority and small businesses. Minority-owned business would include women-owned businesses, African American, Latino, Asian-owned businesses, and veteran-owned businesses. I'll work to guarantee the residents' dollars are reinvested back into the community by ensuring we are hiring local firms.

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

Answer:

Yes I do, however, because of the on-going uncertainty we have now at the Federal level, we must do our part at the local level to make our students feel safe and protected. I'll be an advocate on the board to ensure our DREAMERS have a voice when important policy decisions are made.

We need to ensure we are providing them with the appropriate resources to guarantee their protection and success. As a Trustee, I'll support and expand services at the Dream Center office located at Manchester Mall. This center offers academic counseling to new and continuing undocumented students at FCC. The individuals that utilize this center identify as Dreamers, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) or are seeking AB 540 status. We need to ensure that DREAMERS are provided with educational resources to assist them with qualifying for the California College Promise Grant. This means expanding the Dream Center resources to other campuses within SCCC so that our rural communities have increased access to these resources.

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:

Transfer to 4-year institutions – It's critical we have enough class offerings each semester to guarantee students are able to take the necessary classes to transfer to a 4-year college as quickly as possible. I'll work to expand "Pathways," a sequence of courses taken at the community college level that guarantees students admission to the CSU or UC system. This provides our lower-income students a more economical path by allowing them to take courses at a community college with the promise of transferring to a CSU or UC. No matter what their end goal may be, my goal is to get students through the community college pipeline as quickly as possible to allow them to flourish in their next endeavor.

Workforce Preparation – A 4-year college program isn't for everyone. We need to ensure that the relevant programs are in-place for those that are looking to gain skills and immediately transfer into the workforce. I'll work closely with the business community and local building trades industries to ensure that classes are relevant to the skills our employers need. I'm dedicated to supporting our Valley's future workforce by supporting relationships with local union apprenticeship programs. I'll support an expansion of hands-on training by providing our students access to industry equipment, whether in the classroom, or at the work site. Additionally, providing continuing

education courses for industry sectors will strengthen our existing workforce. We can best align with our workforce community by remembering it thrives on stability and growth.

The Completion Arch is a great, interactive, visual tool to help SCCCD determine performance metrics and to determine where there's room for improvement. If we're able to better understand the root of academic issues, we can more quickly solve the issue through budgetary and program adjustments.

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:

We must do more to strengthen the pipeline between K-12 and post-secondary education. This means building upon current relationships with all high school districts in the Central Valley to ensure that high schoolers have equal access to college classes no matter what part of the Valley they live in. It's critical to have leaders on the board that will keep our older neighborhoods and rural communities at the forefront of discussions.

I will work to strengthen the Dual Enrollment Program, a program that positively impacts high school students by giving them early access to Career Technical Education (CTE) community college classes. High school students who earn college credits by taking a college-level course are more likely to enter college and succeed, get a head start on postsecondary education, and gain momentum toward a degree or credential. Increasing access to hands-on CTE courses for high schoolers will produce more career-driven individuals.

SCCCD recently accomplished a huge undertaking by beginning to offer college-level courses at Sunnyside and Edison High Schools. As a Trustee, I'll work hard each day to ensure that educational investments continue to be a priority for our lower-income and rural neighborhoods.

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

Answer: Yes! Every SCCCD student should have the opportunity to take courses on the subjects of social, environmental, and community justice issues. This should include an LGBTQ history course and an environmental justice course that focus on real-world applicable air quality and greenhouse gas issues (i.e. Fresno's Industrial land uses vs lower-incomed communities. A relevant course could also include a local Fresno history class that evaluates how politics has played a role in creating such isolated poverty-stricken neighborhoods. This would include studying how land use and General Plans play a role in growing our communities. As a city planner, I understand how policy and decision-making directly impacts residents at the neighborhood level.

We should educate a broader array of community members on these issues with the hopes that they will play a more participatory role in decision-making.

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

Answer: As a young Latina from the LGBTQ community, I understand firsthand the importance of electing leaders that reflect the communities in which they represent. As a city planner in the private sector, I know the direct benefits of involving residents in the decision-making process. As someone that calculates GHG and air quality impacts that projects have on neighborhoods, I know how SCCCD should grow in order to have a direct benefit to the community without negatively impacting them. Having been born and raised in Southeast Fresno, I understand how educational investments can open up a window of opportunities for vulnerable populations. I'll take these experiences and skill sets to the board in order to be an effective, well-rounded leader.

An endorsement from CVPPAC would tell our community members of SCCCD Area 5 that I am the right choice to make decisions that will have their best interests at heart. It's time for the next generation of leaders to have a seat at the table that will make progressive-minded decisions to move our communities in the right direction. I'm dedicated to being a strong voice to represent our lower-incomed and rural communities by making decisions that will prioritize their educational and economic well-being.

Please feel free to connect with me at (559) 931-1946 or on one of my social media accounts:

Facebook: PereaforSCCCD

Instagram: Perea_for_SCCCD

Twitter: @AnnalisaPerea

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.