

Central Valley Progressive Political Action Committee

Endorsement Questionnaire for the August 13, 2019, Fresno City Council District 2 Candidates

Name __Jared Gordon__ District #2

Name of Campaign Committee: Friends of Jared Gordon for Fresno City Council 2019

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Treasurer: Direct File

Who are your five largest financial contributors and how much did they give you? I have commitments from donors, but have not accepted any contributions yet, except a loan from myself.

Please answer YES or NO to the following four questions:

Climate change is an environmental crisis that must be addressed by decreasing our dependence on fossil fuels and increasing solar, wind and other alternative energy sources.

Yes _____

No _____

X (I agree man-made climate change is occurring, but not that it is an environmental crisis, or that decreasing *all* fossil fuel use is necessarily the best way to address it. I would be happy to explain my answer further upon request.)

I support President Trump's immigration policies and believe his proposed wall at our southern border is needed.

Yes _____

No _X_

I believe in a woman's right to reproductive freedom and will do what is in my power to keep abortion affordable and legal.

Yes _____

No _____

☒ A woman's right to reproductive freedom may not be subject to undue burdens by government regulation. The Fresno City Council should have no say in any abortion-related policy decisions.

The city of Fresno is expected to have a population of more than 600K people from the 2020 census. Are you in favor of expanding the Fresno City Council to nine (9) seats to equitably represent the recent growth in the city?

Yes ☒ (So long as the change did not result in a substantial increase in spending)
No ☐

Please limit your responses to the following four questions to no more than 200 words per question.

1) 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?

I plan to revisit the previously adopted Development Code with the intent to eliminate permit requirements for all by-right development and property modification/renovation, provided that a licensed professional (contractor, engineer, etc.) is involved in the construction or renovation. That will substantially reduce the time and cost required to build in-fill housing and to renovate existing, run-down housing stock.

I oppose a comprehensive, routine, interior rental inspection program because it violates the rights of tenants to be free from warrantless searches.

2) 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.

My view is that homeless residents deserve to be treated with the dignity inherent in all human beings. However, that also means that they are subject to the same responsibilities that other residents have not to trespass on or damage other people's property. I support the no-camping ordinance for that reason, although I think the rhetorical approach to explaining the ordinance was inconsistent with treating the homeless with dignity.

I would consider limiting implementation of the no-camping ordinance until the City of Fresno can open additional, low-barrier transitional housing for homeless residents, likely in conjunction with one or more of the existing nonprofit providers of services to our homeless residents.

3) 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?

We need to improve communication and trust between our residents of color, LGBTQ residents, and the police. That could be improved through officers from the relevant communities reaching out and participating in neighborhood or community events. The police and the Councilmembers should

listen to and take seriously the concerns about policing expressed by those communities, who are disproportionately the victims of crime in our society.

More importantly, the City Council should, as the supervising body of the police department, be involved in reviewing incidents by police that generate complaints or litigation, in conjunction with the police auditor. The powers of the police auditor to obtain information might be increased in that regard.

4) 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?

Immigration policy is a national issue. The City of Fresno should comply with relevant state and federal laws, but it is inappropriate for the City of Fresno to be involved in immigration policy.

5) 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?

The principal problem with additional park space is ongoing maintenance fees. I intend to propose a program where vendors such as food trucks or restaurants can get the exclusive right to sponsorship or to sell concessions in all or part of a park in exchange for funding the ongoing maintenance costs of parks. This would vary from fruit sellers obtaining a vendor concession for a small park to a potential Tavern-on-the-Green-style restaurant location in Woodward Park.

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

People have an inherent right to freedom of association, including the right to join a union, or not to join a union. I would protect the right of city workers to unionize, to participate in a union, to negotiate or grieve through a union, and to complain about their working conditions regardless of whether or not they are in a union. I would oppose any action I believed to be an unfair labor practice by the City of Fresno.

I view the responsibility to manage the pension fund of city workers as one of the foremost obligations of the City of Fresno. We are fortunate that the pension is currently well-funded, and I will maintain that fully funded pension for our past, current, and future city workers.

Finally, I know that city workers took on some extraordinary, but necessary, sacrifices in 2009 and 2010. I will vote to responsibly manage the budget of the City of Fresno to ensure that city workers do not face layoffs or benefit reductions in the future.

Please return this questionnaire by e-mail (in either a .docx or .pdf format by May 31, 2019, to mikerhodes@comcast.net.

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