



On behalf of the Central Valley Progressive Political Action Committee, I want to thank you for running for local office. Our democracy requires the dedication of individuals willing to devote their time, money and energy to serving as elected officials. The CVP-PAC promotes voter awareness of candidates and supports candidates for local office who our members believe will make the best difference in the quality of life for all residents in our community.

If you want to be considered for endorsement by the CVPPAC, you will need to complete the attached candidate questionnaire and e-mail it to [mikerhodes@comcast.net](mailto:mikerhodes@comcast.net) no later than 6 p.m. on Saturday, August 3, 2019. You will receive an e-mail confirmation of receipt of your completed questionnaire. The questionnaire needs to be completed with each question followed by your answer and must be sent as an attachment in a .docx or .pdf format. The responses will be uploaded to our Web site at [www.cvppac.org](http://www.cvppac.org) and made available to our members.

Candidates endorsed by the CVPPAC will be publicized in the *Community Alliance* newspaper, Facebook, several local listservs and the local news media.

Members and others are urged to volunteer for our endorsed candidates and to contribute financially to those candidates. The CVPPAC also provides direct financial support for many of our endorsed candidates.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to e-mail or call me.

Thank you.

*Mike Rhodes*

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# Central Valley Progressive Political Action Committee

## Endorsement Questionnaire for the Fresno City Council District 4 Candidates

Name Tyler Maxwell District #4  
Name of Campaign Committee Maxwell for City Council 2020  
Address P.O. Box 847 City Fresno Zip 93712  
E-mail tyler@maxwellforfresno.com Web site Maxwellforfresno.org  
Phone 907-4263 Campaign manager Jason Carns  
Treasurer Don Milligan

Who are your five largest financial contributors and how much did they give you?  
UA Local 246 (\$5K); FCEA (\$4,700); UFCW (\$2,500)  
OE39 (\$2K); OE3 (\$1K)

**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 ☐

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

Yes ☐  
No ☐

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 ☐

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 ☒  
No ☐

**Please limit your responses to the following six 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?

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.

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?

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?

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?

6) What is your stand on unions and unionization? What will you do to support workers in the City of Fresno?

**Please return this questionnaire by e-mail (in either a .docx or .pdf format by Saturday, August 3, 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.*

1. The City of Fresno is currently facing a housing crisis. Not due to a lack of housing, *per se*, but a lack of *affordable* housing. In large part, the lack of affordable housing in Fresno is a manufactured crisis. At 112 sq. miles and low density, there is plenty of space to develop affordable housing. As a councilmember, I will advocate for more affordable housing throughout D4, as well as the city as a whole. The City needs to incentivize developers to create affordable housing in Fresno, otherwise, the land will remain vacant and the owners will sit on it until something more lucrative presents itself. The City currently offers major tax incentives to billion-dollar corporations such as Amazon and Ulta. I would propose that Fresno instead uses their tax abatement incentive powers to attract in-town and out-of-town developers to build affordable housing. In tangent with this effort, as a councilmember, I would be an advocate for securing state tax incentives for affordable housing as well. The State of CA currently offers 9% HUD tax credits over a 10 year span to developers who build affordable housing. Additionally, I am in favor of the rental interior housing inspection program. There has historically been an abuse of the acceptable living conditions of rental housing here in Fresno. I suggest that we simply hold property owners accountable to meet local, state, and federal guidelines.
2. Thus far, the City's approach to ending homelessness has been a disaster. Not only have we failed at decreasing the percentage of homeless people in Fresno, but our numbers have actually *increased*. Shifting homeless people around and installing signs advising that people not give donations to panhandlers (who are often times homeless) does nothing to address the fundamental causes of homelessness. As a councilmember, I will take a housing-first approach to homelessness. It is my belief that if we can provide living space to folks who need it, they will be in a better position to seek other services needed (e.g. job-training, mental health counseling, drug rehab, etc.) as opposed to making them seek treatment before securing housing. In addition, I would advocate for stronger workforce development and career technical education in Fresno. If we can create a pipeline for young marginalized people to get good-paying jobs here locally, we can take huge leaps to decreasing our homeless population. I am also in favor of assisting local non-profits, such as The Dakota Eco Gardens, who are interested in providing safe and comfortable places for our transient population, but may be facing code violation issues, zoning problems, or may need financial assistance.
3. I believe that the introduction of Axon Body Cameras to the FPD has presented an increased sense of accountability within the department. On top of this, we can take measures to ensure the Fresno Chief of Police is someone who, not only reflects Fresno's community at large, but also strongly values community policing and will commit to investing more into a community-based policing approach. By investing in community policing, we can take strides towards building trust between FPD and marginalized communities here in Fresno.
4. Given the fact that immigrants helped build the foundation of Fresno, and continue to be a large and integral part of our culture and economy, we need to do what we can to ensure our immigrant community feels, not only welcome, but that they have the tools they need to succeed in Fresno. Our law enforcement should not use their time or

resources enforcing or aiding federal agencies. FPD is already overburdened and understaffed and I do not believe it would be in our best interest to spread ourselves more thinly. As a former Victim Advocate, I saw a drastic decline in immigrant communities coming forward to report crimes out of fear of being personally deported, or having the alleged suspect deported. This is neither a healthy nor a sustainable system for our immigrant community or our criminal justice system, as it only disincentivizes people to report crimes. Fresno also needs to focus on our immigrant community when it comes to creating economic opportunities. We should focus our efforts on helping individuals with a lack of resources to achieve economic stability whether by creating programs to help them start small businesses, or connecting them to local, good-paying jobs.

5. Currently the City of Fresno has, not only a lack of green space, but also millions in deferred maintenance to our existing parks. Many of the parks with deferred maintenance exist in areas of Fresno that are predominantly low-income. Due to this fact, the parks are under utilized. I believe in order to combat these issues, we need to see an increase in our City's PARCS budget. Compared to other departments within the City, our PARCS total budget is astonishing low. This also accounts for the high turnover for PARCS department heads which in turn leads to a lack of stability and long-term vision for our parks system. We can also secure funding through other means to go towards creating more green space in Fresno. I would be a vocal advocate of both of these avenues as a councilmember.
6. I am a proud union supporter. There are a multitude of ways that the City can support our local unions. Two of the most obvious are Project Labor Agreements and Community Benefits Agreements. By implementing these agreements, the City can help ensure that local, unionized workers have good-paying jobs here in Fresno. I would also gladly join workers during bargaining efforts and even during strikes to show my support to their causes.