

**Central Valley Progressive Political Action Committee
Endorsement Questionnaire for Congressional District 16 Candidates**

Name: Esmeralda Soria 16th Congressional District

Name of Campaign Committee: Esmeralda Soria for Congress

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For the first 5 questions answer yes or no:

- Do you support Roe v. Wade in which the Supreme Court ruled that the Constitution of the United States protects a pregnant woman's liberty to choose to have an abortion without excessive government restriction?
Yes
- Do you support overturning Citizens United? **Yes**
- Do you support the single payer healthcare for all model? **Yes**
- Do you support the impeachment of Donald Trump and his removal from office? **Yes**
- Do you Support the Green New Deal? **Yes**

Please limit your responses to no more than 800 words for the following 4 questions (200 words per question).

- Please comment on the use of private companies for detaining immigrants and your reaction to separating children from their parents and putting them in cages. I am opposed to the use of private detention centers profiting from immigrants who are fleeing violence and seeking a better life. Trump's unconstitutional and inhumane family separation policy was one of my greatest motivations to run for Congress. I could not sit back and watch mothers be separated from their children and put in cages. Our congressional representatives have the power to address this issue through the budget process and we need to elect progressive leadership to protect human rights.
- Do you support raising the federal minimum wage and if so, what do you think it should be? Yes, I support raising the federal wage and would vote for Raise the Wage Act if elected. I support a nation-wide \$15 minimum wage with an index of future increases to median wage gain as outlined by the Raise the Wage Act.
- What measures would you take to guarantee clean and safe drinking water for all residents in California? Residents in the Central Valley are unduly burdened with poor water quality, and rural communities of color are disproportionately affected by ground water contamination. I will fight for environmental justice in the Central Valley. My approach to the clean drinking water issue would be to 1) Pass legislation that allocates funds for water infrastructure projects primarily targeting communities with the highest levels of contaminants, 2) Pass legislation that reinstates key provisions of the Clean Water Act (CWA) repealed under Trump.
- What is your plan to end homelessness? In July of 2019 I was appointed by Governor Newsom to serve on the state's newly created Homeless and Supportive Housing Advisory Task Force. I am one of 6 elected officials, and the only elected official from the Central Valley to serve on this governing board to determine how best to spend California's new \$1 billion budget to solve homelessness in California. I am honored that Governor Newsom chose me to be a part of this taskforce and to have a seat at the table to advocate for the

Central Valley. As a councilmember I have opposed efforts to further criminalize our homeless residents and championed innovative projects such as the Eco Village Project that provide safe living spaces in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Homelessness increased by 17% in Fresno and Madera counties. The issues that contribute to homelessness are nuanced and require a multi-pronged approach to solve them. A solution to homelessness means that we will need to invest in temporary bridge housing as well as permanent supportive and affordable housing. We will also need to work to provide our vulnerable populations with the services needed for them to thrive: medical, mental health, substance abuse, and job training. We all must acknowledge that this issue requires compassion, determination and a lot of hard work to solve, and we can only truly address homelessness if we come together.

Thank you so much for your time and energy in completing this questionnaire. Your answers will be distributed to our members prior to the December 7, 2019 endorsement meeting through the CVPPAC Website.

Please return this questionnaire by email to Mike Rhodes <mikerhodes@comcast.net>. The deadline is Wednesday, November 27 at 11:59 p.m.