

Central Valley Progressive Political Action Committee
Endorsement Questionnaire- Madera City Council District 5

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City Council District 5

1. Last year the council bought 150 solar street lights and placed 130 on the West side of Madera. Your district is on the East side. How would you vote if elected?

I would have voted against the 130 lights going on the West side. The East side should have at least received half of the 150 lights. I was not there for the voting but had I been there I most definitely would have voted against the West side getting the majority of the lights. We need additional resources like street lights on our side of town.

2. Many parts of your district lack sidewalks and people have to compete with cars to get to where they are going. How would ensure that children can walk to school safely.

The lacking of sidewalks is one of the reasons I decided to run for City Council. Areas around Clinton, Lilly, Washington, Magnolia and Fig all need sidewalks. I think one of the best ways to try to get sidewalks for District 5 would be to speak to the city manager and see what I could do to accomplish that. I would try my best to get enough support from the rest of the City Council board and get sidewalks for District 5. As for the children walking to school safely I have spoken with Senator Ana Caballero and she told me that there are grants out there that can help us create safe pathways for children to walk to school. I would work on getting those grants for the children and to improve our streets in Madera.

3. The cannabis ordinance as it is currently written only allows for 2 equity permits. Would you vote to increase that number?

Yes I would vote to increase the number of equity permits. The more permits we have the more jobs that are created for Madera. More permits would also bring more revenue for Madera. I would also push for people who have been in trouble in the past for cannabis to be allowed to be involved in this process. I think it is important for those individuals who have been negatively impacted in the past for cannabis related crimes to be allowed an opportunity to contribute and better themselves.

4. Do you support high-speed rail? Explain why or why not?

Yes I support the high-speed rail. The reason I support high-speed rail is because it would bring good paying union jobs. It would also diversify our economy from agriculture to liveable wage jobs. Madera needs good paying jobs and this could help that. Madera also stands to benefit from the High-Speed Rail if we are successful in getting the heavy-maintenance facility; this will bring additional employment for valley workers.

5. How would your city address the needs of the homeless population in your city?

The way our city could address the homeless is by investing in mental health treatment, drug programs and build affordable housing. At this point Madera is building affordable housing but it needs more, including short-term and transitional housing. Looking at programs such as Project Room Key which converts and fixes old hotels as temporary housing as we build additional permanent supportive housing for the homeless population.

6. Do you support your city being or becoming a sanctuary city for undocumented immigrants? Explain why or why not.

Yes I support being a sanctuary city for the undocumented. Madera supports DACA and the Dream Act. Comprehensive Immigrant reform is needed, we need to fix the problem not punish them.

7. What will the candidate do to improve the situation on the corner of Clinton and Rd 28 as parents drop off their kids at Millview Elementary?

What we can do is partner up with the county because Rd 28 is county. The road needs to be redesigned by putting in a better street light system, work on a more effective drop off section. The staff and school district from Millview school could also look into partnership with the city and county to implement and review areas where we can lower the posted speed-limit and any change to the streets.

8. How can you improve the parks in the district to make them more attractive to younger residents and safer for families? Many young African American youth would like to have an outdoor basketball court, for example, could you make that happen?

Yes, we can make that happen. For example we need to invest in John Wells Centennial park; it has no benches. All park investments are on the West side. We need the help for the parks on the East side. Once we get the financial help that is needed we can then work on getting some basketball courts for the community to have access to. I also believe we should look into doing an assessment that includes community input of all the parks in the city and see where the greatest need is so we can fix and improve our parks. We should also look into promoting community and cultural events at our parks.

9. What will the candidates do to bring new stores and restaurants to the district? This would assist residents with jobs and easier access to food and basic needs. Rancho San Miguel is a good start but there's no pharmacy within walking distance for the elderly.

What I can do to try and bring in more businesses into our district is work with the city staff and see what we can do to accomplish that. The city encourages new business to come to Madera, but building owners and the business owners can not come to an agreement on permits, taxes and other factors. We need to look into the permitting process for small local businesses and see how we can

support new businesses to succeed in Madera. Part of the issue is also having the city invest resources in fixing our roads, sidewalks, water systems and our downtown. District 5 covers all of Madera Downtown so focusing efforts to support the current and future business downtown will be a big focus of mine and that includes investing in city resources.

Candidate Signature
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