



Central Valley Progressive- Political Action Committee

Endorsement Questionnaire- Civic Candidates

Candidate Profile:

Name: Nelson Esparza	District Seeking: District 7, Fresno City Council Re-election
Name of Campaign Committee: Esparza for Fresno City Council 2022	FPPC#: 1396365
Address: 1625 E. Shaw Ave. #130	City, Zip: Fresno, CA 93710
E-mail: nelson@nelsonforfresno.org	Website: www.nelsonforfresno.org
Candidate Phone: 559-395-2394	Treasurer: Varinder S. Bains
Campaign Manager: Navkaran Gurm	Campaign Manager Phone: 559-612-0313

CVPPAC Core Values

Please answer YES or NO to the following 3 questions.

1. 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__X__
No_____
2. Should government enact and/or support increased corporate taxes, increased income taxes on wealthy individuals, taxes on global wealth, and commercial property taxes based on market values to fund services such as childcare, public education, and public health?
Yes_X__
No_____
3. 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__X__
No_____

City Candidate Questions

Please use no more than 100 words to respond the following.

1. What are your plans to improve your city's transportation services?

Myself and Council VP Maxwell spearheaded Zero Fare for our Fresno FAX Bus systems through the pandemic. While the fare has resumed, it is lower than it was before and it remains free for some groups. We are continuing to pursue a permanent Zero Fare vision by finding the financing to make it zero fare for additional groups. As one example, we have secured a grant that will help to do that and we will be announcing that this year.

2. How will you reduce urban sprawl? **I have been the most vocal proponent of infill development on the Council and the only Councilmember to vote against the reopening of the General Plan back when there was an attempt to reopen it in late 2019.**
3. Do you support High Speed Rail? Explain why or why not. **Yes I have been a supporter of the HSR since I first voted for Prop 1A back in 2008. Despite the challenges it has faced in its construction, it has created many jobs and continues to be the future of our state. It holds great economic promise for the Central Valley and will be a cleaner form of transportation up and down the state as we take vehicles off the road and it serves in some cases as an alternative to air travel.**
4. How should your city address the needs of the homeless population in your city? **By continuing our Housing First approach. We are housing more folks than ever before in the City thanks to an aggressive effort of property acquisitions and conversions. We have generally lacked the significant resources to provide some of the more extensive social service components but that continues to be an opportunity for the County to step up and/or the state to send down more resources. I have opposed efforts to further criminalize our homeless population and the folks helping them (e.g. the STOP Ordinance and the effort to proliferate panhandling signs all over the City).**
5. Describe two ways in which the city council and county supervisors should work together to positively impact your city? **As mentioned in the previous questions, the County should be more aggressive in their efforts to provide mental health and social services as the City secures housing for the unhoused. I would also like to see the County work with the City to transform the old UMC Campus down in Southeast Fresno, currently owned by the County. The pandemic was a grand opportunity for collaboration but that did not work out well, with the City effectively becoming a de facto public health agency in the absence of the County leadership stepping up to better protect residents.**
6. What are your top three priorities for address when elected to the seat you desire?

Housing with a focus on affordable housing and continual improvement of our existing housing stock, infrastructure investment to rebuild the crumbling parts of our City and lay the foundation for new housing, and continuing the aggressive effort to transform

our parks system through Measure P (which I supported passing with 50%) and Prop 68 grants.

Candidate Signature: 

(Use the draw function to sign this document. Signing confirms candidate's permission to post responses on CVPPAC website.)

Thank you so much for your time and energy in completing this questionnaire. Your responses will be posted on the CVPPAC website and distributed to CVPPAC members. **All completed questionnaire responses are to be submitted to Mike Rhodes at mikerhodes@comcast.net by 11:59 pm Friday, April 1st (without exception). The CVPPAC endorsement meeting will be held on Saturday, April 9th via Zoom.**

CVPPAC April Endorsement Meeting

Saturday, April 9th at 3:30PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92483756535?pwd=b0hCSlVveVB3TDBmM0pZR0VtM1h4UT09>

Meeting ID: 924 8375 6535

Passcode: 814922

Please feel free to contact Simone Cranston-Rhodes at 559-978-4504 or simonecranstonrhodesfta@outlook.com with your questions.

Central Valley Progressive- PAC
CVPPAC President