

Central Valley Progressive Political Action Committee

Endorsement Questionnaire for the Sanger City Council

Name Eve Castellanos

Name of Campaign Committee Castellanos for Sanger City Council 2022- District 2

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Treasurer Kasan Jones

Who are your five largest financial contributors and how much did they give you?

1. National Women's Political Committee- \$1000; 2. Fresno Co. Democratic Women's Club- \$150

3. Honorable Humberto Garza- \$100; 4. Honorable Jose Villarreal- \$100

Please answer YES or NO to the following three 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 XX

No _____

I support unions and think workers should be paid a living wage.

Yes XX

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 XX

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 Sanger'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 implement a comprehensive routine interior code inspection program for rental housing?
- 2) Evaluate the successes and failures of Sanger's approach to ending homelessness and what, if anything, you would do differently.
- 3) Police accountability in Sanger and in the San Joaquin Valley is a concern of the progressive community. What exactly do you propose to require greater accountability of the police to the citizenry of Sanger, especially in interactions within neighborhoods of color and the LGBTQ community?

Please return this questionnaire by e-mail (in either a .docx or .pdf format by Friday, September 9, 2022, 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) What specifically do you plan to do to ensure that Sanger'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 implement a comprehensive routine interior code inspection program for rental housing?

I am committed to helping to keep Sanger a great place to work and live, and ensuring safe and affordable housing is one way to do that. If I'm elected to the Sanger City Council, I plan to advocate for land use policies and regulations, as they relate to land use zoning and rent control, that can serve to increase the City's affordable housing capacity. I strongly believe that many of the City's vulnerable and marginalized populations, including the elderly, disabled (differently abled), low-income, and other disadvantaged populations can benefit from additional affordable housing options. In an effort to recognize the concerns of homeowners in more established neighborhoods, I am interested in exploring other feasible options to incorporate affordable housing, such as mixed-use facilities that could offer retail options for residents in addition to creating additional housing options. I would also support educational forums to promote education for programs, such as Section 8 and other subsidies for renters that might encourage landlords to opt-in to increase housing capacity. I would also work to foster opportunities for state and Federal funding from the sources such as the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). One of my primary concerns as it relates to housing is that affordable housing should be crafted in a manner that cultivates a robust sense of community and does not have a limited appeal or stigmatize residents. Additionally, I would support a comprehensive routine interior code inspection for rental housing that includes training and self-certification options for property owners with rental units who meet established criteria, to ensure that housing units meet the Health and Safety Code requirements. I also support local and online educational workshops on Housing Rights for all residents of rental properties in Sanger to increase their knowledge of their rights as tenants, as well as who they can contact if they need help and support related to this issue.

2) Evaluate the successes and failures of Sanger's approach to ending homelessness and what, if anything, you would do differently.

Based on my perspective, I think that Sanger has done a good job of attracting new development of housing to the city over the past decade. There have been new developments established throughout the City, as opposed to being limited to a specific area. This development has served to address some in-fill issues, as well as extend the City's parameters. This growth has also attracted more businesses and as the City has grown, so has the number of homeless individuals and other issues related to being unhoused. Based on information substantiated by the City's only homeless assistance program, I know that the unhoused population in Sanger consists of individuals who live on the streets, families in cars, and some who are living in temporary housing provided by two local motels (including one operated by the nonprofit organization referenced). As an elected official, I would work to advocate for additional housing resources in the form of a shelter or units to safely offer short-term, transitional, and long-term resources for unhoused individuals and families. I would also promote training for law enforcement and community-based service providers so they could become knowledgeable in appropriate intervention and referral methods to assist and support unhoused individuals they have contact with. I would also continue to advocate for the provision of other resources and services to help to address co-occurring

issues that homeless individuals may grapple with, such as substance abuse, mental health, and domestic violence.

3) Police accountability in Sanger and in the San Joaquin Valley is a concern of the progressive community. What exactly do you propose to require greater accountability of the police to the citizenry of Sanger, especially in interactions within neighborhoods of color and the LGBTQ community?

Public safety is a paramount issue that local municipalities are responsible for. As with all matters that involve the use of public funding, I would promote accountability and transparency in how those dollars are invested, including how it relates to the police. I am a proponent of community policing. I think this could be more effective in small, rural municipalities, such as Sanger. The current Police Chief has indicated that community policing techniques are already being utilized, but I would like to see those and other related strategies strengthened. For example, I would like to see police officers engage in more prevention, education, and early intervention efforts. I think these strategies are critical to building trust with marginalized and minoritized communities, such as in neighborhoods of color and the LGBTQI community, which have often been impacted by trauma due to discrimination, harassment, and poverty. I think that positive connections and interactions between community members and law enforcement officials in a safe setting, whether they be at neighborhood, school, or community events or canvassing could help to foster conversations and dialogue that could serve to strengthen the community overall. Having worked with an Independent Police Auditor's (IPA) Office in San José during my time with the San José City Manager's Office, I am also an advocate of having a separate and independent entity, such as an IPA or a citizen's oversight committee, to listen to the community and recommend policy changes to ensure that the Sanger Police Department has tools, policies, and resources to develop and adequately address officer misconduct. Finally, given some of the lessons highlighted by tragedies caused by law enforcement officers in the cases of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, as well as others, I am a strong advocate for ongoing training for law enforcement officials, especially as it relates to issues such as racial bias, discrimination, and equity. I also endorse collaborative practices with community-based and nonprofit service providers, including those who serve homeless individuals and victims of domestic violence and human trafficking. I also think those collaborative practices should be formalized through the establishment of formal Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) between the police department and other agencies.