

**Central Valley Progressive- Political Action Committee  
Endorsement Questionnaire- County Candidates**

**Candidate Profile:**

Name: Miguel Angel Arias	District Seeking: County Supervisor District 3
Name of Campaign Committee: Arias for Fresno Supervisor 2024	FPPC#:1460133
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Candidate Phone: 559.906.1443	Treasurer: Denise Lewis
Campaign Manager: Miguel Arias	Campaign Manager Phone: 559.906.1443

**Background and Experience:**

Briefly describe your background and experience, highlighting any previous political or community involvement that demonstrates your commitment to progressive values.

Miguel Arias is a community leader with extensive senior executive, public policy, advocacy, and communications experience. Miguel spent his youth as a farmworker on the west side of Fresno, working to pay his college tuition and learning first-hand the value of hard work. His determination guided him from the fields to the halls of Congress, where he served Central Valley families as a legislative aide to Congressman Cal Dooley. Due to the devastating drought in 2004, Miguel returned to Fresno to lead emergency relief efforts, repurpose retired farmland and advocate for more water storage and safer drinking water.

More recently, Miguel served as Chief Information Officer for Fresno Unified School District and as Trustee at State Center Community College District. Through these roles he worked to

increase high school and college graduation rates and led the establishment of Dream Centers at Fresno Unified School District and Fresno City College, to assist undocumented students.

As College Trustee, Miguel diversified and expanded access to the nursing program, police and fire academies, and career technical education. During his tenure as an educational leader, he helped secure \$1 Billion to build new schools and colleges including Bud Gaston Jr. Middle School, Westside Institute of Technology, and two new Fresno City College Centers in southeast Fresno and West Fresno.

Miguel's efforts have earned him numerous recognitions including the Educator of the Year award by the Association of California School Administrators; the Golden Bell Award from the California School Board Association; the Community Leadership Award from Centro La Familia; and Community Leadership Award from the Fresno Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Committee.

Since November 2018, Miguel has represented the City of Fresno District 3, which includes Downtown, Tower District, West Fresno, and Central Unified communities.

Councilmember Arias has secured more than \$2 Billion in resources to improve neighborhoods in his district, led the effort to reform the police department, managed the COVID pandemic crisis, house thousands of homeless residents by transforming Motel Drive, and funded a record level of new firefighters for the City. Miguel and his family live in the Tower District.

**CVPPAC Core Values:**

*Please answer YES or NO to the following 7 questions.*

1. Addressing income inequality and ensuring a fair minimum wage are crucial to promoting economic justice for all members of our society.  
Yes    
No
2. Expanding access to affordable healthcare will improve our community's healthcare outcomes for all and reduce disparities in outcomes amongst the different social segments.  
Yes    
No
3. 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

4. All levels of government must have strategies to address systemic racism, promote social justice, and ensure equal rights and opportunities for marginalized communities.  
Yes  \_\_\_\_\_  
No \_\_\_\_\_
  
5. Education is a foundational social good, and all residents deserve equitable access to affordable education in safe conditions, provided by appropriately provisioned and adequately compensated educators.  
Yes  \_\_\_\_\_  
No \_\_\_\_\_
  
6. Our criminal justice system must be reformed to reduce mass incarceration and ensure fair and equitable treatment of all residents.  
Yes  \_\_\_\_\_  
No \_\_\_\_\_
  
7. Immigration policies must be updated to include increased pathways to citizenship and protections of immigrant rights, thereby acknowledging the humanitarian issues inherent in relocation.  
Yes  \_\_\_\_\_  
No \_\_\_\_\_

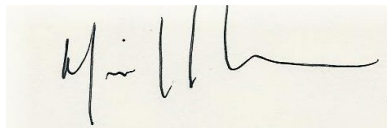
**Free Response Questions:**

*For the following five questions, please limit your responses to no more than 100 words per question.*

1. What specifically do you plan to do to ensure Fresno County's stock of affordable, safe, and decent housing increases significantly? *As a City Councilmember, I initiated 27 new affordable housing projects in just 5 years, housing for college students, families, teens, homeless residents, the elderly and the working poor. Led the effort with now assemblymember Soria to establish the City's Affordable Housing Trust Fund, incentives for affordable housing projects and secured \$300 Million to build high density housing in Downtown Fresno. As Supervisor, I will pursue a similar approach including expanding the partnership with the Fresno County/City Housing Authority to increase affordable housing inventory. Moreover, I will lead efforts to secure millions more to fund housing the unhoused and providing them onsite medical and drug treatment services.*
  
2. How do you plan to engage and empower underrepresented communities to ensure their voices are heard and their needs are addressed? *As a councilmember, I hosted more than 200 neighborhood meetings to obtain resident feedback on budget priorities, infrastructure improvements, park and housing projects. I also established*

a district three resident committee to review all development projects. My office also publishes weekly newsletter to proactively communicate with residents. As supervisor, I will take a similar approach, hosting community meetings, publishing county matters to all residents, and appointing a district resident committee to review and assess development projects. Furthermore, I will appeal industrial development projects approved by the planning commission to ensure the public is notified and input is received in community meetings I host.

3. What actions should the Board of Supervisors take to be more proactive in addressing air-quality and water issues in the Central Valley? For example, do you support regulations limiting new oil drilling in Fresno County? *Air quality can be improved by encouraging infill instead of sprawl and increasing underground water recharge efforts will help our water shortages in dry years. The Board of Supervisors should abandon their pursue of a new 3,000-acre industrial park in south Fresno, as it would reduce our limited water supplies, generate traffic congestion and pollution in the most polluted region in our Valley further. As council member I built the largest solar farm in the City's history, and Supervisor I would oppose further oil drilling and support the State's transition to electrification.*
4. How do you plan to avoid conflicts of interest and uphold ethical standards while serving in office? *On the City Council, I led efforts to hire an ethics attorney that reviews and assesses all potential conflicts between the City Council and business before us. We also modified our council agendas to include disclosures, council members must also voice their disclosures in public and they are confirmed by the City Clerk prior to votes taking place. As a councilmember, we also undergo annual conflict of interest training. Additionally, I decline monetary contributions from parties that have items before the city council including labor unions, business owners, and developers. I plan to take a similar approach as County Supervisor.*
5. If endorsed by our Progressive Political Action Committee, what specific actions do you commit to taking to advance progressive policies and values? *As supervisor, I will pursue reforming the county jail to address the record deaths and treatment of mentally ill inmates, reforming the District Attorney's office to address their weaponization of the office against democrats, fighting for pay equity for social workers and other employees left behind in favor of public safety employees, building shelters and permanent housing for our unhoused residents, expanding drug treatment and mental health programing, opposing further sprawl projects and holding Community Medical Centers System for relocating critical healthcare services from downtown Fresno to Clovis.*



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