



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

Candidate Profile:

Name: EJ Hinojosa	District Seeking: Fresno County District 3
Name of Campaign Committee: EJ for Supervisor	FPPC#:
Address: 2836 N Adoline Ave	City, Zip: Fresno, Ca 93705
E-mail: ej.hinojo@gmail.com	Website: ejforsupervisor.com
Candidate Phone: 559-303-8658	Treasurer: Ramy Moula
Campaign Manager: Alex Ramos O'Casey	Campaign Manager Phone: 559-313-0843

Background and Experience:

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

This is my first campaign for elected office. I am a music teacher at Gaston Middle School in southwest Fresno. This is where I feel I best serve my community. In my classroom I build an environment where all students are welcome, valued, and protected. In exploring Music history, my students are exposed to the social issues that defined the lives and careers of influential musicians like Ray Charles and Selena Quintanilla. These musicians were at the forefront of the progressive causes of their times like desegregation (Ray Charles), cultural pluralism (Selena Quintanilla), women's pay (Aretha Franklin), and independence from imperial government (Bob Marley).

As a member and Minister of Music at Community United Church of Christ, where we fly the Rainbow Flag daily, I have had the opportunity to promote and fight for progressive causes locally. We march yearly with the Fresno Pride Parade. Two years ago I published an opinion in the Fresno Bee publicly asking Adventure Church to end their quest to purchase the Tower Theater. I would do it again. I have had the opportunity to financially

support, volunteer with, or learn from numerous local progressive organizations like Trans-Emotion, Dakota Eco Gardens, Faith in the Valley, PICO, and the Lavender Convention.

I supported Bernie Sanders in the 2016 cycle Primary and Elizabeth Warren for the 2020 cycle Primary, knocked doors for Andrew Janz when he ran for Congress, and supported Andy Levine's School District campaign in 2020.

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 X____
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 X____
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 X____
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 X____
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 X____
No_____

6. Our criminal justice system must be reformed to reduce mass incarceration and ensure fair and equitable treatment of all residents.
Yes X____
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 X_____

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?

-My strategy for increasing affordable housing stock in Fresno County is two-fold

1. Enact Rent Control
2. Reform land use, permitting, and zoning policy to make building new housing easier, faster, and more cost-efficient while protecting the environment and improving transparency of money flowing among developers and local government agencies

2. How do you plan to engage and empower underrepresented communities to ensure their voices are heard and their needs are addressed?

-Engaging in person with underserved communities and the people who live in them is the first and best way I intend to serve and empower those communities and people. Teaching in such a community, I know first-hand that change for the better is impossible without human relationships. I will be in those communities hearing from the people about their material needs and how the County can meet them. Also, to speak frankly, running as a progressive candidate, if I am elected I will owe the launch of my career as a government official largely to the support of progressive organizations like the SJV Dems. Given this fact, I can't imagine a future as an elected official when these organizations, who are at the tip of the spear for progressive causes, would not have my undivided attention.

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?

-The Board of Supervisors should go big on Public Transportation. Fresno County is built for cars. If we, as a region, can increase public ridership, we can dramatically reduce the number of autos on the road and clear the air in a major way. I would like to see more busses, more departure times, more routes, and more car lanes converted to bike lanes. Industrial development should stop in neighborhoods where too much has already been built, especially south of Shaw.

4. How do you plan to avoid conflicts of interest and uphold ethical standards while serving in office?

-I keep a close relationship with a handful of personal advisors—friends who are in positions of public trust—who have agreed to counsel me on legal, ethical, and

spiritual matters in this journey. Among these people are pastors, lawyers, and teachers. They are all avowed progressives. Additionally, as I mentioned before, I will be in close contact with progressive organizations of all stripes. I trust them to hold me accountable, too. In official decision-making, I will always defer to the law and ethical best practices as advised by legal counsel, and I commit to recuse myself from any vote where a conflict of interest may arise. I believe myself to be an ethical and honest person.

5. If endorsed by our Progressive Political Action Committee, what specific actions do you commit to taking to advance progressive policies and values?

-I commit to promoting the following policies to colleagues on the Board of Supervisors

- Rent Control
- Expansion of Public Transportation
- Construction of a public library in the Tower District
- Construction of shelters for the unhoused, including for LGBTQ youth
- Funding for the LGBTQ Resource Center
- Expansions and Improvements in the Department of Behavioral Health
- County Funding for Arts and Recreation
- Construction of Medical Facilities in underserved communities
- Renewed Environmental Review for CEMEX

Candidate Signature: _____ *EJ Hinojosa* _____

(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 Lourin Hubbard at lourin.smith@gmail.com by 11:59 pm Friday, September 1st (without exception). The CVPPAC endorsement meeting will be held on Saturday, September 9th at Studio 65.**

CVPPAC April Endorsement Meeting

Saturday, September 9th at 2:00PM

Studio 65

4774 N Blackstone Ave

Fresno, CA

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

Central Valley Progressive- PAC