



Central Valley Progressive- Political Action Committee

Endorsement Questionnaire- BOS District 5

Candidate Profile:

Name: Jennifer Cruz	District Seeking: Supervisor 5
Name of Campaign Committee: Jen Cruz for Fresno County Supervisor 2024	FPPC#: 1465359
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Background and Experience:

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

I have spent my adult career helping people and oppressed communities. I have over 20 years of management experience and my endeavors have been successful in food service management, retail management, operational management, housing case management, and non-profit program management. In my current non-profit manager role since 2019, I have successfully built programming and a center for the LGBTQ community here in Fresno in a conservative political climate. I have built collaborative partnerships with all the LGBTQ+ serving organizations along with mental health and medical care providers, and other direct service organizations all over Fresno County. I created the training for more inclusive workplaces that we present to organizations and businesses who are trying to create workplaces that are more inclusive. In the last year, we have even helped Madera County Dept. of Health and Madera Community College improve their LGBTQ+ affirming services since there is no LGBTQ center in their county. My current role has placed me in positions to be an advocate and organizer in many unified schools district meetings, a variety of city council meetings, and at the Fresno County Board of Supervisors meetings. I

have successfully written grants and proposals to increase funding for the center and currently employ five full-time paid staff in the center. My agency asked me to apply for the role I am in now in 2018 because I was so successful at building the Permanent Supportive Housing program I ran for 18 months prior to moving into this management position. I have experience in mental health counseling, knowledge of the interworking's of the Workforce Investment Board and The Fresno Madera Continuum of Care for housing programs.

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 _____

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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? Creation of rent control policy, creation of policy for equitable and accessible permanent and creation of policy to address all development and suburban sprawl with planning for affordable housing factored into Fresno County's future.

2. How do you plan to engage and empower underrepresented communities to ensure their voices are heard and their needs are addressed? I have been engaging and empowering underrepresented communities for the past 10 years and will continue that effort on a county level in District 5. I also would like to create policy that prohibits limiting public comment by the Board of Supervisors. If people take time out of their days to address the board they should be able to do so even if that means longer meetings for the Board of Supervisors.


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? Yes I support limiting new drilling and the Board of Supervisors should not be rejecting money from the state for environmental studies as they have in the past. I understand this could delay some development plans but ignoring environmental factors is not a solution when so many central valley residents and children suffer from asthma, due to pollution, drinking water has and will continue to be impacted, and other climate change issues will continue to impact the most vulnerable Fresno County residents if we continue to ignore this issue.

4. How do you plan to avoid conflicts of interest and uphold ethical standards while serving in office? Seek out and participate in ethics training and learn any standards and/or code of conduct to serve on the BOS. Stay current with Local, state and federal legislation. Read all board agendas and other board member resolutions/policies to make informed decisions but also know if there are conflicts of interest so that I can take action to be above reproach. As a public servant I feel it would be my job to act in the best interest of as many D5 constituents as possible in all areas.

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

1. Creation of policy to listen to fresno county residents during public comment
2. Fiscal responsibility by not bringing frivolous lawsuits and (wasting taxpayer money but using that money to improve Fresno County DSS, DBH, Dept of Health and other county services.
3. Support a living wage for union workers and working families to improve retention and decrease high turnover.

All of these things should happen with a lens of equity and while keeping in mind the systemic racism, sexism, classism, ableism and heteronormativity that prevents our diverse county from

Candidate Signature:  _____ Jennifer Cruz (*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. We want to expedite the process for this endorsement and request you help by returning this questionnaire asap.

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

