

Central Valley *Progressive* Political Action Committee

Endorsement Questionnaire for Education Candidates

Candidate Information

Candidate Name: Joseph C. Aquino

Race/Area #: Fresno Unified Board of Trustees - Area 2

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Campaign Manager/Consultant: Isabel Razo

Please use no more than 100 words to respond to each of the following:

1. Please describe how you will improve the quality of education as an elected trustee for the school district?

- As an elected trustee, I will focus on increasing funding for essential programs, such as literacy and math initiatives, and expanding access to resources for special education. By advocating for smaller class sizes and supporting professional development for teachers, I will work to create a more personalized learning environment. I also plan to promote transparency in budget allocation to ensure that funds are directed where they are most needed, ultimately enhancing the overall educational experience for all students. Additionally, working on increasing English Language Learners Graduation rates.

2. Describe how the school district can provide additional social emotional supports at all school campuses?

- The district can enhance social-emotional support by increasing the number of school counselors, psychologists, and social workers on campuses. Implementing comprehensive mental health programs and providing ongoing training for educators to recognize and address student needs is essential. Partnering with community organizations to offer workshops and resources for students and families will create a more supportive and nurturing environment, ensuring that every student has access to the care and guidance they need.

3. What role should the school board play in determining the selection of books / materials for school libraries?

- The school board should ensure that the selection of books and materials for libraries is guided by a commitment to diversity, inclusion, and educational value. While respecting professional educators' expertise, the board must also ensure transparency and community involvement in

the process. Policies should be in place to protect academic freedom while ensuring materials reflect the community's values and provide students with a broad, balanced education.

4. What should be the policy of the school district as regards notifying parents of student's request for use of gender pronouns and other identifying characteristics?

- The district should prioritize the safety and well-being of students by allowing them to explore their gender identity in a supportive environment. While parents play a critical role in their children's lives, mandatory notification policies could put students at risk if their home environment is not supportive. The district should focus on providing resources and guidance to both students and families, encouraging open communication while respecting the student's right to privacy.

6. Please list your top 5 campaign donors and the amounts contributed.

- Pending

Candidate Signature: *(Use a script font to sign below). Signing confirms candidate's permission to post responses on the CVPPAC Web site.)*

Joseph C . Aquino

If you want to be considered for endorsement by the CVPPAC, you will need to complete the attached candidate questionnaire and e-mail it back to us at fresnocvppac@gmail.com no later than 11:59 p.m. on Saturday, August 31st.