

CVPPAC- City Candidate Questionnaire

On behalf of the Central Valley Progressive Political Action Committee, I want to thank you for running for local office. Our democracy requires the dedication of individuals willing to devote their time, money, and energy to serving as elected officials. The CVPPAC promotes voter awareness of candidates and supports candidates for local office that our members believe will make the best difference in the quality of life for all residents in our community.

The CVPPAC will hold its members-only endorsement meeting on Saturday, August 9th, 2025, at 2 PM. If you want to be considered for endorsement by the CVPPAC, you will need to complete this candidate questionnaire no later than **11:59 p.m. on Friday, July 18th, 2025**. You will receive an email confirmation of receipt of your completed questionnaire.

The responses will be posted on our website at www.cvppac.org and will be made available to our members.

If you want the CVPPAC to consider you for endorsement, please complete the candidate question in its entirety. Candidates endorsed by the members of the CVPPAC will be publicized in the Community Alliance Newspaper, several local list-serves, and to the local news media. Members and others are urged to volunteer for our endorsed candidates and to contribute financially to the candidates. The CVPPAC also provides direct financial support to some of our endorsed candidates.

If you have any questions, or need any additional information, please feel free to e-mail or call me.

Thank you,

Simone Cranston-Rhodes

President of Central Valley Progressive PAC

centralvalleyprogressivePAC@gmail.com

(559) 978-4504

Name *

Nav Gurm

Elected Position *

Fresno City Council District 7 - Candidate

Name of Campaign Committee *

NAV GURM FOR FRESNO CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 7, 2026

FPPC # *

1474209

Address including City, State, and Zip *

5200 N Palm Ave # 203, Fresno, CA 93704

Email *

ngurm@fiveriverstrategies.com

Website *

NavGurm.com

Candidate Phone Number *

559-612-0313

Treasurer

Bains CPA Inc - Fresno

Campaign Manager

Jason Carns (Consultant)

Campaign Manager Phone Number

(559) 287-0064

CVPPAC Core Values

Please answer all 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

No

Should the government enact and/or support increased corporate taxes, increased income taxes on wealthy individuals, taxes on global wealth, and commercial property taxes based on market values to fund services such as childcare, public education, and public health? *

Yes

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

No

I believe that diversity, equity, inclusion, and access are important principles and will work to ensure all people's rights are protected and everyone can thrive in a democratic society regardless of citizenship status. *

Yes

No

Would you be willing to attend (or provide proof of attendance) an anti-sexual harassment training? *

Yes

No

City Candidate Questions

Please limit your responses to no more than 200 words per question.

What are your top three priorities to address when elected to your desired seat and what makes those priorities progressive? *

Infrastructure: Everyone deserves clean streets and safe neighborhoods. The core of District 7 has been disinvested in for generations. I will champion equity-focused infrastructure projects to prioritize the most disadvantaged neighborhoods in District 7. I also will lead a Climate Resiliency District to promote workforce development around green jobs and environmental innovation, addressing unemployment and climate change simultaneously.

Economic Development: Jobs = uplifting people from poverty. We need to lower costs for green job creation, like supporting the Westlands Solar Farm to keep clean power local. We also need to better prioritize Fresno's small businesses, especially ones owned by historically marginalized communities, for city contracts, keeping money local. To that end, I want to start a Community Business Accelerator to support businesses owned by women, immigrants, and people of color so they can compete for contracts.

Housing: District 7 is ripe for mixed-use and "missing middle" housing, like the Manchester Mall conversions. I will champion zoning reform and incentivize infill development that creates affordable housing, walkable neighborhoods, and models a 15-minute city for our working families. I will advocate for more housing models in Fresno to bring down the price of rent and keep families in the neighborhood of their choice.

What are your plans to improve your city's transportation services? *

The City must design its transportation system that is designed for people from all corners of Fresno. Not enough residents use FAX; from knocking on doors, people don't use FAX because the stops are too far away from their homes. Other transit systems, like Visalia, have experimented with publicly-sponsored rideshare programs to provide more flexibility and greater accessibility for those not served by fixed routes.

Additionally, Fresno can be the first Valley city to experiment with multi-modal transportation with City sponsored bikeshare to promote health and small-distance transportation options.

I would also support strengthening the Zero Fare Clean Air Act, passed by city council in 2020. We should also expand fare-free transit options to include agreements with employers to encourage employee bus ridership, more school districts to support students attending school, and EBT card holders.

Aligned with my housing priorities, we need to champion transit-oriented development. We need to build affordable housing along transit corridors and reimagine Fresno so more residents can live without relying on a car.

How will you reduce urban sprawl? *

We must push for zoning reforms that make it easier to build critically needed housing in Fresno. I will support the construction of more duplexes, townhomes, and mixed-use developments in our infill priority areas. Additionally, I will support building conversions, whether it's old hotels, offices, or malls into permanent housing, especially along our urban corridors like Blackstone.

We need to be intentional with how Fresno grows. This includes building key community infrastructure near existing neighborhoods, from grocery stores to medical offices. Infill development strengthens services and amenities where people already live. I will advocate for stronger infill incentives to streamline permitting and greater infill fee remissions from the City.

Describe what you think are the two main issues around policing in our community? What do you propose to address those? *

911: Fresno has grown exponentially; however, the 911 system has not kept pace. If people are facing an emergency and there is a long wait, it places lives at risk and erodes public trust in law enforcement. I will support incentives to retain and grow the number of dispatchers the City employs. Additionally, I want to make it easier for people to report non-emergencies by expanding the options to make an online police report and having more established non-emergency call takers.

Community Investment: We must address the root causes of crimes through investing in youth programs, mental health, and parks. Something as simple as having community green space for kids to play and be engaged in has been shown to lower crime rates. I support the CSO program the police department has implemented to have a non-armed person come out to form community relationships and address neighborhood issues and would like to expand it to include more school engagement.

How should your city address the needs of the homeless population in your city? *

First and foremost, addressing the root causes: cost of living, high cost of housing, and lack of supportive services. Fresno must prioritize a Housing First approach, expanding permanent supportive housing units through targeted incentives for developers and repurposing underutilized city properties. This includes partnering with nonprofits to integrate on-site mental health and substance abuse counseling, which data shows reduces recidivism into homelessness by up to 40%.

To prevent homelessness upstream, I will advocate for stronger eviction protections and rental assistance programs tied to local wage data, ensuring working families aren't one paycheck away from the streets. We also need to enhance outreach teams, like expanding the City's Multi-Agency Access Program (MAP) to include more coordinated street-level interventions with health professionals. Finally, aligning with my economic priorities, I'll push for job training pipelines that connect unhoused individuals to green jobs and small business opportunities, fostering self-sufficiency while addressing labor shortages in key sectors.

Describe two ways in which the city council and county supervisors should work together to positively impact your city? *

Homelessness: City Council and County Supervisors must collaborate on a regional homelessness strategy, pooling resources for shared shelters and supportive housing projects that span jurisdictions. This could include joint funding for a centralized intake system to streamline services, reducing duplication and ensuring efficient use of state grants like those from Project Homekey. By aligning city zoning reforms with county health services, we can accelerate the development of mixed-income housing with embedded behavioral health support, ultimately lowering costs for taxpayers and improving outcomes for vulnerable residents.

Economic Development: The City Council and County Supervisors should partner on a unified economic growth plan, focusing on attracting high-wage industries like renewable energy and ag-tech to the Fresno area. This could involve co-investing in workforce training programs through shared grants, such as expanding apprenticeship opportunities at local community colleges to prepare residents for green jobs. By coordinating incentives for businesses and tying city tax abatements to county infrastructure improvements we can foster equitable job creation that benefits underserved communities, reduces unemployment, and keeps economic benefits circulating locally rather than leaking to other regions.

Candidate Signature

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 CVPPAC at by **11:59 pm Friday, July 18th (without exception)**. All candidates who are being considered for endorsement are encouraged to attend and speak.

CVPPAC August Endorsement Meeting

Saturday, August 9th at 2 PM

Pete and Carmen Salsa Studio
4774 N Blackstone Ave
Fresno, CA 93726

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

Candidate's permission to post responses on CVPPAC's website for members to view. *

The candidate gives permission to post

This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms