

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 *

Ariana Martinez Lott

Elected Position *

Fresno City Council District 7

Name of Campaign Committee *

Martinez Lott for Fresno City Council 2026

FPPC # *

1479179

Address including City, State, and Zip *

PO Box 6354 Fresno CA 93703

Email *

Ariana4fresno@gmail.com

Website *

ariana4fresno.com

Candidate Phone Number *

(559)367-5799

Treasurer

Carol Lavale

Campaign Manager

Campaign Manager Phone Number

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? *

I will show up and be accessible to the people who trusted me with their vote-

1. improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods through attractive parks, more trees, safer streets, and accessible transportation,
2. fight for every family's right to have a healthy place to live, and
3. offer support to small businesses that serve as a cornerstone of thriving communities.

I am running for City Council as a continuation of the collective work so many of us have invested in over the years. Our neighborhoods should be more than a stepping stone in someone else's political career, and knowing my neighbors has shown me what's at stake. A neighbor left a good paying union construction job for his family because it required too much travel, and local contracts did not exist. Parents don't feel safe walking their kids to their neighborhood parks. Too many families that are locked into slumlord housing conditions because of skyrocketing rents. Systemic inequities criminalizing entire communities. My priorities are progressive because I will work with residents to deliver results. One of the most transformative things we can do is to invest in spaces that help build relationships amongst neighbors. It is those connections that lead to collective action- not politicians romanticising people with campaign promises.

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

I am an engaged community member in the Measure C Moving Forward Together initiative, advocating for a robust renewal that will reflect the lived experiences of all residents. Our city's transportation services must encompass the needs of Fresno's diverse communities- including pedestrians, cyclists, users of public transportation, and vehicle drivers. I will work ensure we are addressing existing gaps, including:

- Investing in our existing neighborhoods: street improvements, sidewalk installations and repairs for safe routes to school, maintaining existing and planting new trees, better lighting, and expansion of bike lanes.
- Enhancing public transportation services: new routes and bus stops in underserved communities; work with key partners to continue free rides for students, veterans, seniors, and people with disabilities, while exploring funding sources to expand free bus fare access.
- Rebuild the School Liaison Subcommittee: I will provide proactive leadership by working collaboratively to develop a community-driven process to identify the schools with the greatest needs, align funding to enhance traffic safety measures, and deliver timely completion of projects.

Passing a Measure C that truly reflects the lived experiences of our community will be a historic victory. I will be ready to put in the work with implementation, upholding the values that the people fought for.

How will you reduce urban sprawl? *

The looming federal cuts to education, health, housing, and other critical resources will have a detrimental impact on Fresno families. Locally, we can either exacerbate that crisis by expanding outward without financial sustainability, or we can take a stand and invest in our existing parks, streets, schools, and housing conditions in the neighborhoods our families already call "Home."

I will work with CBOs and residents to identify effective policy solutions because our communities cannot afford the continued historic disinvestment and negative health effects of ongoing sprawl. Region-specific general plans can be used to identify priority areas for infill and affordable housing, as well as additional market-rate housing within our existing city limits. I am also committed to working alongside neighborhood-based CDCs and other affordable housing investors to learn from their existing challenges, champion policies to streamline zoning and permitting, and focus our financial resources on responsible growth. These efforts need to be in conjunction with investing in transportation for all, renovating our parks, and supporting small businesses in our existing communities.

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

Police officers are not set up to be able to handle the quantity and complexity of what is demanded of them on a daily basis. I will work with PD and key partners to identify best practices for community response units for non-emergency and mental health calls so officers can focus on addressing serious/violent crimes. I will also prioritize investments that create thriving communities: affordable rents and utilities, liveable wages, positive outlets for young people, and accessible transportation.

As I engage with voters at the door, parents keep telling me how hard it is to get into afterschool programs. They just want safe, fun spaces for their kids. As a mother of two, I am an avid user of our community centers. I'm often struck by how empty the sites feel. With federal attacks on education and afterschool programming, and the need for neighborhood spaces to cultivate safety, the City can fill in the gap. Building on the opportunities of Measure P, we can partner with organizations to bring in youth programming, such as YLI, the Discover Center, and emerging arts & culture collectives. I will work with the PARCS Department to build up daily turnout at our community centers, especially in sites located in some of Fresno's most disinvested neighborhoods.

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

My faith has taught me that every individual is born with inherent dignity. While I am a strong supporter of addressing public safety threats deliberately caused by any individual, I do not believe in criminalizing an entire group of people for situations that are due to systemic challenges. When I've had conversations with individuals that have been able to break from the cycle of homelessness, stable housing came first- whether it was through a family member, or a government subsidy. The City has an urgent responsibility to invest in increasing our affordable housing stock, and will require Councilmembers that will prioritize our limited financial resources for affordable housing and infill development. While focusing on a Housing First model, we can increase opportunities to strengthen support networks through a multi-sector collaboration for childcare, job training, mental health support, and more. We must also continue to take a multipronged approach in preventing homelessness- eviction protection programs, streamlining internal zoning processes that currently create barriers for building affordable housing, addressing skyrocketing rent, and strengthening policies like the Rental Housing Improvement Act. We cannot afford to lose more neighbors and families to homelessness.

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

The City and County have a shared responsibility in aligning our efforts for homeless response and community safety. At the height of the pandemic we had historic Federal and State financial investments in short and long-term housing for our unhoused communities. With the operational money for short-term housing now depleted and a growing public health and housing crisis, it is critical that our County and City Elected Officials work together to secure funding for the conversion of the emergency shelters into long-term affordable housing. We also need to shift the City's approach to non-emergency and mental health calls. I will work with the City and County to pursue additional funding and expand on the Crisis Intervention Team contract, and increase mental health professionals for 24/7 response support.

The City and County need to commit to an independent redistricting committee. A healthy city relies on Elected Representatives that best reflect the values and interests of the people that voted for them. In Fresno, the geographic makeup and residents' needs must be the leading factors in redistricting efforts- not political careers and behind the scenes chess-making.

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

Google Forms