

CVPPAC- State 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 *

Randy Villegas

Elected Position *

House of Representatives, CA-22

Name of Campaign Committee *

Villegas for Congress

FPPC # *

FEC # C00902379

Address including City, State, and Zip *

Villegas for Congress PO Box 1346 Visalia, CA 93279 United States

Email *

randy@villegasforcongress.com

Website *

villegasforcongress.com

Candidate Phone Number *

6613781658

Treasurer

Lauren Decott, MBA compliance

Campaign Manager

Finance Director: Jason Cohn

Campaign Manager Phone Number

323-866-0444

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

State 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? *

An Economy for working families:

For far too long, congress has prioritized an economy that works for billionaires and millionaires, at the expense of our working families. Members of congress beholden to their corporate sponsors have passed corporate tax breaks, and handouts for their wealthy donors.

Growing up in a working-class family, and today as a small business owner, Randy knows what it feels like to earn a paycheck. Randy knows what we need to create an economy that works for all of us, including:

- Raising the federal minimum wage to ensure that workers are able to pay their bills
- Putting jobs first, investing in bringing in new opportunities and industries to the Valley so our children can find a good career right here at home.
- Fighting for trade deals that will put the Valley first, not endless tariff trade wars that hurt our farmers and businesses.
- Passing the PRO act, to ensure that workers are able to freely and fairly organize for better wages and working conditions.
- Passing the American Family Act to continue to support child tax credits for our working families.
- Investing in communities, not corporations with our tax dollars, by supporting apprenticeship programs, workforce trainings and small businesses.
- Spending our tax dollars here in the Valley and the states. We should not be funding endless wars for countries that have universal health care and education, while our own families continue to suffer in debt.

Immigration: As the son of immigrants, Randy knows what it is like to deal with a broken immigration system firsthand. Randy supports a comprehensive, just and humane immigration reform that will keep families together and keep our communities safe. We need a pathway to citizenship for folks who have come to this country, played by the rules, and contribute to our local economy and communities. In addition to establishing a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers (DACA recipients), we need to ensure that our immigration system keeps families together, and supports family reunification.

When immigration raids occurred in his community, Randy sprung into action, organizing a “know your rights” workshop with hundreds of free consultations for the community. We must.

Randy is also a champion and advocate for bringing our deported veterans home. Under our current system we have veterans who have proudly served our country, made immense sacrifice, and yet have been deported. We need to bring our veterans home, and fight for an immigration system that recognized the dignity of all our veterans who have served.

Healthcare: We have a healthcare system that is broken. Every single year, more than 60,000 Americans die because they can't afford to go to the doctor. Healthcare insurance CEOs are getting richer and richer while many of our family members choose to ration their medicine, or choose to take an uber to the hospital rather than an ambulance because they can't afford it. This should not be happening in one of the richest countries in the history of the world.

And we are feeling these impacts in the Valley more than anywhere else in the country. According to a study almost half of our central valley residents (48%), have medical debt. Six out of every 10 people in this region have said they skipped or stalled medical care, due to cost.

We need a healthcare system that works for everyone including a system that will:

- Take on big Pharma by negotiating the price of pharmaceuticals directly, bringing down costs for families.
- Protecting our seniors, the poor, and those with pre-existing conditions

- Bringing down the price of insulin to 35\$ for everyone, and fighting to cap the cost of other life saving medications.
- Working to bring more doctors and healthcare workers to the Valley so people can be treated closer to home.
- Provide quality affordable health coverage for all.

Do you support single payer healthcare for all? Please explain. *

Yes, I support single payer healthcare for all, see above answer.

What is the State Legislature's role in defending and strengthening democracy? *

I believe the Federal government should be at the forefront of strengthening democracy by getting corruption and money out of politics. Congress has forgotten about working families because only 2% of congress actually comes from the working class. Instead we have a bunch of millionaires working on behalf of billionaires in Washington D.C. We need to restore the full weight of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, including empowering the Department of Justice with the authority to supervise changes to state election laws that result in discrimination against minorities and may purposefully or inadvertently limit voters.

I'm fighting to end that corruption in government, and will fight to get money out of politics. Citizens United was a disastrous decision that now allows these billionaires and corporations to raise and spend unlimited amounts of money in politics.

- Just last cycle Elon Musk spent about a million dollars to help my opponent get elected.
- One of our supreme court justices Clarence Thomas has been receiving luxury gifts from a Republican billionaire donor, and the president of the United States accepts a plane worth hundreds of millions of dollars from Qatar.

You don't need a Ph.D. to know that this screams corruption. All of this is going on at the same time that working families are struggling to pay the bills, we have homeless veterans in our country, schools are underfunded and our communities are fighting to make ends meet, people are right to be pissed off. Randy is proud to be running a campaign that is not taking a single cent of corporate PAC money, because he's fighting on behalf of working people, not special interests. In Washington Randy will vote to Ban Corporate PACS and also vote to Ban members of congress from trading stocks, because political insiders should not be allowed to own stocks as they have information the public does not, and they make decisions that directly impact those stocks. Randy believes politics should be about public service, not making yourself richer.

With the current State deficit, what approaches do you have to help create a stronger and more stable economy for the California budget? *

I will answer this based on the federal level, but billionaires need to pay their fair share. Never have we had such a gap of wealth inequality in this country and it's time that we hold billionaires and multinational corporations accountable. We can do this by reversing the tax cuts for the 1% presented in this "big beautiful bill" to fund the programs that our working families rely on and deserve. Programs like Medicaid, WIC, and SNAP among others. Additionally we need to fund our student's futures by investing in more pell grants and educational opportunities, not cutting them. We can take steps to invest in the Central Valley, a region that has long been neglected by our federal government to fund higher education, including career and technical trade opportunities that lead to good paying union jobs.

In what ways can the State work in the Central Valley to create cleaner water, air, and environment for everyone? *

I would support legislation, investments, and regulations that would help achieve net zero GHG emissions before 2050 and at least 50% by 2030. I would also oppose all efforts to undermine, block, or repeal the Inflation Reduction Act and Clean Air Act. Additionally, I would commit to protecting and advancing transportation electrification, expanding zero- emission public transit, supporting and defending strong federal cleaner cars and trucks standards, and protecting states' authority under the Clean Air Act to adopt stricter state-level emissions standards. Everyone should have the right to drink clean water, breathe clean air and live without the impacts of toxic pollution. This can be accomplished by supporting the Clean Water Act, the Antiquities act, and ensuring we protect our public lands.

How would you like to see local police departments, across the nation, changed to reduce violence? *

I support the decriminalization of Marijuana at the federal level and investing in public services and Community safety. When appropriate, I believe that mental health specialists should respond to mental health crisis calls, so that way police officers can focus on actual crime.

What is your plan to end homelessness? *

I believe that we need to invest in affordable housing. I support the Build Back Better Package which would have included investments in affordable housing, down payment assistance for first-time home-buyers, funding for public housing capital repairs, funding for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, and a major expansion of housing vouchers. These investments were stripped out of the Inflation Reduction Act, and we need to fight for these programs. I also believe we need to support a Vacancy tax, Tenant Right to counsel, Tenant anti-harassment legislation, Tenant right of first refusal to purchase, and Just-cause eviction protections to the extent that the federal government can pass these policies. Similar to Alex Lee's bill in the CA state assembly, I would support a bill that limits corporations who from purchasing or leasing any additional single-family properties.

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

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