

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 *

Keshia Thomas

Elected Position *

Current Trustee FUSD/ Candidate for Fresno City Council

Name of Campaign Committee *

Keshia Thomas for fresno city council D3

FPPC # *

1479893

Address including City, State, and Zip *

1005 W KEARNEY BLVD., Fresno, C 93706

Email *

ms.keshiathomasvp@gmail.com

Website *

to be completed soon

Candidate Phone Number *

5599602292

Treasurer

Alena Pacheco

Campaign Manager

Jason Carns

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? *

Reducing poverty in south Fresno, creating good paying jobs, and improving the livability of our neighborhoods, and these are absolutely progressive issues, helping the poor, as a resident of West Fresno one of the poorest neighborhoods in the country, I understand more than most how pressing this issue is and how it needs to be addressed.

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

Public transportation services are very important to the poor, the disabled, and our youth. Much has been done to improve bus service in recent years. I will support the continuation of this, expanding routes, and decreasing wait times, where it makes sense. Being a board member has created a space where we created policy along with the City of Fresno to make sure students have access to free public transportation.

How will you reduce urban sprawl? *

The City of Fresno has done a lot to hold the line in recent years and promote infill. This creates both more attractive and more efficient communities saving needed tax dollars. It also helps preserve farmland, and reduce our environmental impact. But Fresno cannot do this alone, there must be greater cooperation with the county, otherwise developers will just go somewhere else.

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

As a resident of West Fresno this is an issue near and dear to my heart. The first issue is one of training, we must ensure our officers have the training they need to respond to the complex socio-economic issues in our poor neighborhoods. We must ensure we treat mental health issues differently than true criminal issues. The second issue is one of trust, and that is why it is important we hire from the community, and have programs in the community that breed stronger relationships between our police and our residents. Because policing is an issue near and dear to my heart, training students to work in our neighborhoods is also important. For this reason, FUSD has a new pilot in which I initiated. This pathway is a first responder pathway, which will target students at a younger age to create awareness and access to students who may not otherwise be introduced to these professions.

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

Fresno has done a lot in recent years to address this issue, but clearly much more can be done. We need greater cooperation from the county where the social service dollars reside. And now with the turnover in county leadership we have a golden opportunity for a greater city county partnership. The City of Fresno cannot do it alone. We also need to find a way to more greatly address mental health issues, as many of the more visible homeless clearly have mental health problems. Again it is the county where the mental health budget resides.

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

Homelessness is certainly the first issue, the county has the social service budget and city county coordination is really a requirement for solving this problem. The other issue is on growth, good Fresno growth policies will only go so far if the county is not on board.

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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