

Question – Equal access to healthcare

California is considered a national leader in protecting reproductive rights and the rights of transgender people, yet Californians are nevertheless denied access to reproductive healthcare and treatments for transgender people in health care facilities. Do you support measures to ensure that hospitals and other health care entities that receive public funding and hold themselves out as serving the general public cannot prevent doctors from providing health care to their patients that meets the standard of care?

YES NO OTHER

Explain (200 words maximum): Non-discrimination must be a requirement for entities that accept public funding. We must ensure healthcare for all, including reproductive rights and transgender rights.

Question – Sex education in charter schools

Sex education helps young people have the information and skills they need to make healthy, informed decisions about relationships and behaviors. Current California law mandates comprehensive, accurate, and inclusive sex education be provided in public middle and high schools. Do you believe that charter schools should be required to provide students with the same comprehensive, accurate, and inclusive sex education that public school students must receive?

YES NO OTHER

Explain (200 words maximum):

Charter schools receive public funding and should be required to provide the same sex education.

Question – Transgender rights in jails and prisons

Transgender people are at enormous risk of sexual assault, physical abuse, and harassment behind bars. These gender segregated facilities can be a place where transgender people are frequently and consistently misgendered. The vast majority of transgender people who are incarcerated in California are placed in gender segregated housing based not on their gender identity but their sex assigned at birth, which means, for example, that most transgender women are housed in men's facilities. Do you think that incarcerated transgender people in California should be housed based on their gender identity unless they prefer a different type of placement?

YES NO OTHER

Explain (200 words maximum): They should be placed based on their gender identity unless they prefer a different placement.

Question – Extending statute of limitations on harassment and discrimination

California employers must create workplaces that allow people to do their job without harassment or discrimination. People who experience workplace harassment and discrimination have a very short window in which to file administrative complaints to address their situation, leaving many people without legal recourse if they miss the window. Do you support policy proposals that would extend the statute of limitations from one year to three years for filing an administrative complaint about workplace harassment and discrimination with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing?

YES NO OTHER

Explain (200 words maximum): We must work to reduce workplace harassment, and the current window is too short. Three years would be more appropriate.

Question – Police transparency

California is among the most secretive states in the nation when it comes to information about police shootings and officer misconduct. California law gives police officers secrecy around their records far beyond that given to any other public employee: all information about discipline and investigations into misconduct is confidential, even that related to shootings and instances where the officer’s own department has found they engaged in misconduct.

Should California allow public access to records of investigations, findings, and discipline related to police shootings and other serious uses of force, and to proven serious misconduct, such as sexual assault, filing false reports and fabricating evidence?

YES NO OTHER

Explain (200 words maximum): Our current systems for holding police accountable is woefully inadequate. Too many police officers who have behaved poorly remain in their positions or are transferred to new positions when they should be fired. The public needs to have access to the records of investigations and findings for these public employees.

Question – Police de-escalation and use of force

Over the past several years, public concern has grown over the high number of police shootings of civilians, especially in light of disproportionate number of African Americans and individuals who suffer from mental illness. Last year, California saw more police killings than any other state, and the Los Angeles Police Department fatally shot more people than any other police department — including the Chicago PD and NYPD, which are significantly larger. Nothing in state law requires police to engage in best practices to reduce fatal shootings and other excessive force, such as employing de-escalation techniques, requiring officers to intervene when other officers are using excessive force, and requiring prompt provision of medical aid to civilians they injure. Since 2000, only one officer in Southern California has been criminally charged in a shooting and none have been convicted.

Should California law require officers to use de-escalation techniques and exhaust alternatives before using force against a civilian?

YES NO OTHER

Should California change state law regarding officers' use of deadly force — from authorizing officers to use any “reasonable” force, to authorizing police to use deadly force only when necessary?

YES NO OTHER

Explain (200 words maximum):As described above, the current system is not working. Because police departments are not adequately policing themselves, we must change policy to require the use of de-escalation techniques and only allow deadly force when necessary.

Question – Single-payer healthcare

We believe true freedom and equality includes the right to healthcare, housing and access to all basic human needs services so our communities can thrive. That's why we advocate in support of single-payer healthcare, ending the criminalization of poverty (i.e. laws that target people experiencing homelessness) and expanding access to affordable housing and supportive services.

The Healthy California Act, SB 562 (Lara & Atkins), would guarantee healthcare for all California residents through a single-payer model. SB 562 would save \$37 billion per year off our current healthcare spending, contain costs going forward, and guarantee healthcare for ALL California residents. Benefits include medical, dental, vision, chiropractic, acupuncture, and services covered under Medicare, Medi-Cal and the ACA, without insurance premiums, co-pays and deductibles, funded by progressive taxes. Do you support the single-payer model in SB 562?

YES NO OTHER

Explain (200 words maximum): I have been working to pass SB562 since before my candidacy, which is why I have been endorsed by the Californai Nurses Association who have been the biggest champions of this bill,

Question – Decriminalizing poverty

Do you believe California – as a state and its municipalities – should eliminate laws that criminalize poverty (e.g., laws that make it a crime to sleep in public when people experiencing homelessness literally have nowhere else to go)?

YES NO OTHER

Explain (200 words maximum): Poverty should never be a crime. We can't deal with our homeless problem by jailing homeless people.

Question – Affordable housing fund

Will you support championing legislation that invests in a well-funded statewide housing trust fund for affordable housing and supportive services?

YES NO OTHER

Explain (200 words maximum): Our state needs to fund more affordable housing and supportive services in order to address the homelessness crisis in cities throughout the state, including this district.

Question – Repeal court fines and fees

In recent years, defendants in criminal court and traffic court have been charged higher fines and fees in order to fund the court system. This has led to a cycle of debt and incarceration for some of the poorest and most vulnerable Californians. The ACLU of Southern California believes that administering a court system is a core function of government and that the costs of administering courts should not be shifted to defendants, the vast majority of whom are low-income. Do you support repealing fees and surcharges charged to criminal defendants and providing low-income defendants with affordable means to pay off their court debts?

YES NO OTHER

Explain (200 words maximum): Poor people and defendants should not be required to pay for court costs.

Question – Reform Proposition 13

Proposition 13 was passed by voters to provide important protections for homeowners and renters, but it also included a property tax loophole for many corporations and wealthy commercial property owners. This loophole allows some big corporations and wealthy investors to avoid paying their fair share in property taxes. We can no longer afford to keep giving billions of dollars in tax breaks to millionaires, billionaires and big corporations. Closing California’s commercial property tax loopholes restores \$9 Billion for schools, community colleges and other vital community services, including health clinics, emergency rooms, affordable housing, parks, libraries and public safety. Do you support closing the commercial property tax loophole in Proposition 13 by taxing commercial and industrial property at its fair market value while preserving the important protections for homeowners and renters so we can invest in strengthening our schools and important local priorities?

YES NO OTHER

Explain (200 words maximum): We must close the Prop 13 loophole and fully fund our public schools.

Question – Bail reform

California’s bail system needs to change. On any given day, roughly 60% of people in California jails are being detained before trial or sentencing simply because they cannot afford to post bail. SB 10 (The California Money Bail Reform Act) aims to restructure the current bail system and significantly reduce the use of money bail and prioritize services to help people make their court appearances while their cases move forward. Would you support SB 10?

YES NO OTHER

Explain (200 words maximum): Our current money bail system is an anachronism in the modern developed world, and it rewards the rich and punishes the poor.

Question – Criminal sentence reductions

Current sentences are racially disproportionate and ineffective from a public safety standpoint. The incarceration rate for Black and Latinx people is now more than 6 times higher than for whites; 60% of those incarcerated are Black or Latinx. Eight percent of Black men of working age are now behind bars, and 21% of those between the ages of 25 and 44 have served a sentence at some point in their lives. To serve overly long sentences, people serve time in jails and prisons with horrifying conditions and rampant inmate abuse, where they're separated from their communities and support systems, and where people with mental health and substance use conditions leave with worse prognoses. People are then released on probation or parole to face years-long waiting lists for reentry services. They're overly surveilled, face numerous of obstacles to reentry, and receive little to no support to ease their transitions. Nearly two thirds of the reentry population technically violate probation or parole in some way and become incarcerated again. Experts say (1) that we are not going to have a sustainable reduction in our prison population if we continue to limit the discussion to those who are sentenced for non-serious or non-violent crimes and (2) that jurisdictions that divert resources away from incarceration and towards investments in communities are safer and healthier. Would you support reducing sentences, including for people convicted of serious/violent crimes?

YES NO OTHER

Explain (200 words maximum): California's prison population is well beyond that of any other country's, and it eats up a major part of our state budget that could instead be used for better funding of schools and poverty programs that will help keep people out of jail. We must attack this issue on multiple fronts.

Question – End willful defiance and disruption suspensions

The California Department of Education (CDE) reported that 243,603 students were suspended once or more in the 2014-15 academic year. The vague and all-encompassing terms "willful defiance" and "disruption of school activities" were by far the most common reason school administrators suspended students, accounting for 129,835 suspensions statewide. Such suspensions have disproportionately impacted students of color, students with disabilities, and other student populations. For example, in California, African American students make up 6% of total statewide enrollment, but made up 18-20% of the total number of suspensions for willful defiance-related offenses in both 2013-14 and 2014-15. With respect to the age of students suspended or expelled for willful defiance offenses in 2014-15, the majority were high school students in grades nine through twelve (52%), followed by middle school students in grades six through eight (35%), and elementary school students in Kindergarten through fifth grade (13%). Do you support SB 607, a bill that prohibits California schools from expelling or suspending students on the basis of "willful defiance" and "disruption of school activities" in grades kindergarten to 12?

YES NO OTHER

Explain (200 words maximum): Unfortunately, studies have shown that teachers treat students of color differently – for example, minority students are more likely to be given harsher punishments for the same infractions. We need policies in place that protect all students from vague and overly-subjective rules.

Question – Police in schools

In 2013-14, 24% of elementary schools and 42% of all high schools in the U.S. had a full-time assigned police officer. In 2015-16, 19 school districts throughout California operated their own police departments. The U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights' 2013-14 statistics show that, in California, the average arrest rate in schools where more than 80% of students are low-income is seven times higher than the average arrest rate in schools where fewer than 20% of students are low-income. Department of Education statistics also show that although students with disabilities made up only 12% of student enrollment nationwide, they comprised 23% of police referrals, 23% of arrests, and 67% of students placed in physical restraint, seclusion, and confinement. Further, school officials are more likely to refer incidents involving students of color to the police than those involving white students: Native American students are 3.4 times more likely, Black students are 2.7 times more likely, and Hawaiians/Pacific Islander students are 1.4 times more likely to be referred to police. Do you support policies prohibiting law enforcement officers from being permanently stationed on school campuses?

YES NO OTHER

Explain (200 words maximum): I support this prohibition. We must disrupt the schools-to-prison pipeline.

Question – Police cooperation with ICE

The Trump Administration’s aggressive immigration enforcement tactics threaten millions of immigrants, and their families, in California. These tactics rely on collaboration and cooperation with local law enforcement agencies, as well as mining state and local databases and technologies for information about where immigrants live, work, and play to allow them to find and arrest people. Do you support policies that prohibit local law enforcement agencies from cooperating with federal immigration authorities?

YES NO OTHER

Do you support state and local policies that seek to protect from disclosure to ICE information about immigrants that is used only to locate people for civil immigration enforcement purposes?

YES NO OTHER

Explain (200 words maximum): The research clearly shows that a wall of separation between law enforcement and ICE makes communities safer. When law enforcement and other public officials actively cooperate with ICE, communities of color are less likely to report crimes and less likely to trust public officials. All of us are safer when ICE is separated from law enforcement and other public services.

Question – Lawyers for immigrants

Because there is no right to appointed counsel in removal proceedings, most noncitizens are forced to fight their deportation cases without the assistance of a lawyer. Do you support state funding for counsel for indigent California residents in removal proceedings?

YES NO OTHER

Do you believe that funding for this critical due process protection should be available without any exceptions or carve-outs?

YES NO OTHER

Explain (200 words maximum): Deporting people without representation is reprehensible.

Candidate Statement

Please provide a statement (not to exceed 250 words) to explain to ACLU members and activists why, if you are elected, they can count on you to be a champion on ACLU issues.

I have been fighting for civil liberties and the rights of the oppressed for most of my adult life. My parents came to this country as immigrants, and my father put himself through school while working at a 7-Eleven. When I was 11 years old, he ran for Congress – I thought I was going to live in the White House! I remember travelling on the bus with him to talk to constituents all over the San Fernando Valley about the rights of ordinary people like us. When I grew up, I took that same ethic of fighting for ordinary people into my adult endeavors. I worked as an organizer for National Union of Healthcare Workers, fighting for better pay and rights for healthcare workers. As a graduate student at CSUN, I helped organize Occupy CSUN. As a schoolboard staff member, I was there when community members, students, and staff started smelling gas and saying they were getting sick during what was later revealed to be the largest gas leak in US history. I listened to residents and fought for them, and as a result of my efforts, we got two schools moved out of the danger zone.

As an Assemblymember, I want to put our state's tax dollars to work funding education and healthcare and fighting poverty and homelessness – not funding prisons.