

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):

As the son of a nurse, I believe that healthcare is a right, not just a privilege afforded to the wealthy, and that any healthcare facility that receives public funding should allow doctors to provide basic healthcare to their patients.

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):

Every California student should receive comprehensive, accurate, and inclusive sex education regardless of where they are educated.

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):

We should take the steps necessary to protect transgender individuals from sexual assault, physical abuse, and harassment, including those who are incarcerated.

Question – Extending statute of limitation 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 take the steps necessary to ensure that all Californians can do their jobs free from harassment or discrimination, and that those who are victims of such conduct are able to secure legal recourse and access to justice.

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):

We should allow broad public access as long as it does not jeopardize officer safety, public safety, or the privacy of victims.

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):

Deadly force should be used only as a last resort.

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 support the move to a single-payer model. Access to quality healthcare cannot be a privilege afforded only to the wealthy; it should be available to everyone in our state regardless of wealth or immigration status.

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):

The criminalization of poverty is bad public policy and fundamentally immoral.

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):

Addressing California’s housing crisis and our homelessness epidemic are two of my top priorities. I am a strong believer in the “housing first” model that has proven effective in Utah and other jurisdictions and would be a champion for affordable housing and permanent supportive housing.

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):

As an attorney, I strongly believe that we must properly fund our justice system, provide low-income defendants with access to justice, and break the cycle of debt and incarceration.

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):

While I strongly support closing tax loopholes, I believe that we must enact broader tax reform in California to address the inequities in the current system and move us away from the wild swings in revenue that have resulted from our current approach.

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):

I strongly favor bail reform because our current bail system is unjust and does not advance public safety.

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):

I strongly support addressing the highly disturbing racial inequities in our criminal justice system but would not support sentence reductions if they would result in a greater number of victims of serious and/or violent crimes.

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):

While I am committed to addressing these disturbing inequities, I would need to do further research on SB 607 before I could commit to supporting this specific legislation.

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 am concerned about adopting a bright line approach as law enforcement officers may be necessary on certain campuses.

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):

Protecting our immigrant communities is a moral imperative and will be at the very top of my agenda. I have sued the Trump Administration in two landmark lawsuits to help defend DACA recipients and believe that California must do everything possible to protect our residents from the current Administration.

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):

As someone who has represented clients in immigration court, I know that access to counsel can make an enormous difference in the outcome of removal proceedings.

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 demonstrated my commitment to advancing progressive policies and standing up to the Trump Administration through my actions and not just my words. When the DACA program was first announced, I organized a legal clinic to help young immigrants register for the program. When President Trump announced his Muslim Ban, I went to LAX to help provide free legal services to those who needed them. When Daniel Ramirez Medina was the first Dreamer to be detained by the Trump Administration, I flew up to Seattle to help secure his release from ICE custody. And when the Trump Administration tried to end DACA, I sued them in federal court on behalf of six incredible Dreamers, helping to secure a nationwide preliminary injunction to protect DACA recipients from deportation. I will bring this same commitment to advancing justice, protecting the vulnerable, and addressing systemic inequalities with me to Sacramento, and will never shy away from standing up to Donald Trump and defending our California values.