

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

I strongly believe in the individual rights to freedom and self-determination. I believe that any service provider to the public, has an obligation to ensure that all people who request services should be entitled to the best possible care based on the scientific evidence of health care. No provider should impose personal judgements that are not based on sound medical care and that care should always be based on the individual patients' personal needs without placing personal biases over the best possible care and the highest quality of life for the needs of the patient.

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

I believe that all education should be comprehensive, accurate and inclusive and provided to all students on an equal and comprehensive basis. I also believe that education should be provided as a public service to all persons wishing to improve their lives at no cost. In this new age of technology, knowledge is the new capital of our economic system. To improve the value of our quality of life people should be able to obtain the education necessary to acquire the knowledge to grow and to make a greater contribution to our society.

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

The prison system must insure that those incarcerated are to live in safety and free from any form of assault, abuse or harassment. The system should focus on programs that allow for rehabilitation and the hope for a better life in the future. This rehabilitation should include programs for education, training and hope for a better life than that which might have caused them to commit a crime against society due to negative life experiences that contributed to that person taking a path that led to incarceration due to factors that might have contributed to the offense. Personal choice should always be respected and appreciated as an individual right.

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

I support the right to ensure that victims have the right to file a complaint to redress unfair practices; however, I also believe that a person should be able to file a complaint immediately without fear of reprisal such as termination from employment or housing. I believe that many people fear such reprisal and might avoid reporting this until over time this treatment becomes unbearable. I believe that a person should be protected from reprisal's when such a complaint is filed and the process to investigate such a complaint should be expedited to ensure that the practice does not continue and all parties have a fair and just hearing. With a sound determination to redress the complaint to ensure that it does not continue.

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

All persons are entitled to full protection under the law. No person should receive special treatment when a crime is reported and when such a criminal action is determined the court system should insure that the person responsible is prosecuted and punished as provided under the law. We should insure that we always provide equal protection under the law and no preference should be given for a person engaged in a public performance of duties nor for the financial status of the individual who might have engaged in criminal activity.

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

Proper procedures should be well established by a rational and any well thought out approach to any person by a law enforcement officer. This should include a procedure in steps to include a command to require “hands up” to ensure that a person is not armed and presents a risk to an officer before using deadly force.

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?

X YES NO OTHER

Health Care by single payor or Medicare for all should be provided to all people at no cost. This is a quality of life issue and by re-alignment of our budgeting process and taxation system we should provide for people over profit. Persons in need of mental health services should be provided residential treatment and care facilities to obtain the care needed to improve and have a better life.

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

We must provide residential treatment facilities to care for the homeless. Victims of our society are living in the streets and are dealing with drug addiction, alcoholism, mental health issues or extreme poverty.

Poverty and Sickness are not crimes. This is the result of the influence of money on our political system by directing public benefits to those who contribute to political campaigns and lobbying. By providing public financing of elections and elimination of influence peddling we can re-direct our legislative action towards services to the wellbeing of people over the quest for profit by a very few beneficiaries in relation to the general population. Studies have shown that the “World’s Richest 1% own 40% of all Wealth”. The Sunlight Corporation reported that; “Between 2007 and 2012, **200 of America’s most politically active corporations spent a combined \$5.8 billion on federal lobbying and campaign contributions.** A year-long analysis by the Sunlight Foundation suggests, however, that what they gave pales compared to what those same corporations got: \$4.4 trillion in federal business and support.” We must provide for public financing of our elections and stop electing people who are beholden to the money.

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

Yes, I believe we must provide residential treatment facilities to properly deal with the issues that the homeless face and we must provide hope for affordable living.

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?

X YES NO OTHER

Yes, as chair of the CDP Business & Professional Caucus I organized a panel on “the Underfunded Judicial System”. Clearly the existing Judicial System is a “Pay to Play” system with justice to those who can best afford it. The high cost of fines, fees, and for small business owner’s discovery, legal fees and the lengthy time to obtain a judgement has led to an unfair court system that benefits only those who can afford. We must insure that our courts are properly funded and that we provide an affordable means to pay for those who are denied justice due to the cost.

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

Absolutely this is an example of the loophole created by the wealthy and the influence they have on our legislative system.

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

Equal justice under the law is an entitlement all people share and poverty should not interfere with a person’s equality under the law.

Question – Criminal sentence reductions

Current sentences are racially disproportionate and ineffective from a public safety standpoint. The incarceration rate for Black and Latino 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

I believe that the cost of our prison systems is excessive considering that we do not provide the appropriate re-habilitation programs such as better education and job training. The idea of private prisons is appalling, considering that the wealthy will benefit from longer stays at the high cost and profitability. A more effective probation program would be more effective along with a residential treatment program for those who might need greater health care and treatment should be funded. Those people who are properly evaluated and pose a serious risk for violent crimes in society should remain in prison and treatment until such time that the risk is determined to be minimal.

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

Children and teens should be entitled to a proper education. Most students who are expelled or drop out in high school is the result of a miss-guided curriculum. Middle and High Schools at one time provided programs in vocational training, arts, music, and areas of interest for students who might not have had the support from families living in poverty or from broken homes. Our education system should be geared to classes based on the interest and willingness of the students to learn. Students who have not received the early education and home support for higher college education should not be forced to take college preparatory classes. They should be allowed to take classes that would keep them involved in school and consideration should be given for work study programs in vocational programs that would keep them involved and provide the incentive to learn. Students who disrupt classes should be provided counseling and removed from classes that interfere with the learning process of others and placed in classes or activities that would interest them.

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

Under the existing threat to students based on the availability of weapons, we must provide a safe learning and protection for children. We must insure that weapons are not brought into the school grounds by using detection systems at the entrances. Increasing weapons for teachers is an absurd idea and we must eliminate the existence of weapons at schools except for law enforcement officers who are needed at this time.

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

Our work programs invited workers for the benefit of corporate interests and now that we have reduced the need based on robotics and other systems people who have lived and worked over the years in the United States should be protected. We are a nation of immigrants and the melting pot which makes our society stronger. Our laws should have been enforced years ago but it was convenient for those who wanted cheap labor for greater profits. The people who served that need should not be penalized and should be processed for legal status as citizens.

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

I believe the process should be expedited without delay to provide for legal status of those who have lived and worked in the US. Those who have been convicted of serious violations of the law and/or arrived in the US recently should be deported without delay.

Candidate Statement

RAY BISHOP

Los Angeles County 2011 Democrat of the Year for District 45!

A Highly Commended Vietnam war Veteran, Ray returned to organize against war. He was a founding member and CFO of TELACU. He worked to support progressive change as a union and political activist, a consultant to the Carter White House and to Congressman Esteban Torres. He believes in empowering others through knowledge and treating everyone with the dignity and respect. He was elected as the 45th CDP delegate and Chair of the Business & Professions Caucus as well as the LACDP. He serves as an LA County Small Business Commissioner and City Planning Commissioner. Ray has served as Director of the ADVANCE/USC SBDC program. As a founder of The Valley Psychiatric Medical Clinic, Chair of Community Hospital of North Hollywood, Coldwater Medical Group and the Valley Health Fund. Ray has worked hard to provide accessible health care to all. He helped form Penny Lane and his company provided management to many individuals and companies.

He is a member of the PGA and was the owner of the LA Cabaret Comedy Club. He champions the Santa Susana nuclear waste site cleanup as well as Alesio Canyon. He serves as the Chair and CEO of the Public Banking Initiative of California.

Ray Bishop is dedicated to protecting the environment and stopping Climate Change as well as to eliminate influence of dark money that corrupts our political system, and putting an end to the extreme income inequality plaguing our country.