

**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?

X **YES**    NO    OTHER

Explain (200 words maximum):

Religious institutions are working a stranglehold on access to healthcare as they purchase hospitals and health care facilities in increasing numbers. If they expect to continue to receive public funding, then they cannot compromise the public good. The public has a right to access full medical coverage and doctors have a mandate to provide that coverage.

**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?

X **YES**       NO       OTHER

Explain (200 words maximum):

If a charter school is receiving public funding or the use of public school property and/or facilities, it must be required to meet the state standards in the educational program it provides.

**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?

X **YES**       NO       OTHER

Explain (200 words maximum):

This as a matter of the safety of and respect for the incarcerated person.

**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):

Two of the women who are playing leadership roles in revising our sexual harassment and bullying laws and procedures have endorsed me in my campaign.

Assemblymember Laura Friedman is leading the effort in the legislature.

L.A. Community College Trustee Andra Hoffman, herself a target of bullying by a colleague, is chair of the task force on harassment, bullying and Title IX compliance at the college district.

There are any number of reasons why a complaint might not be filed within a year. Three years is more appropriate and I can envision situations in which that may not be long enough. Too often a complaint can lead to firing or an unpleasant work place situation, causing the target of the behavior to hesitate.

**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):

The fact that those records might be released could have a chilling effect on the behavior to begin with. I would want, however, to be certain we are not putting an individual officer, or his or her family, at risk. There has been some significant cultural change with regards to this issue in recent years. I'm aware that L.A. Police Chief Charlie Beck recently said he thought an officer had committed manslaughter and should be prosecuted, but the district attorney refused because she said the case could not be proven.

**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?

**X 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?

**X YES**  NO  OTHER

Explain (200 words maximum):

Whichever the law states, it's still going to come down to training, judgement in the field and review of the actions after the fact.

**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 single-payer, universal health care for all. From what I can learn, however, it does not appear there is much chance for SB562 to be enacted this year. When I was younger and working to support myself as I pursued my college education, there were times when I was without health insurance or access to health care. It gave me the experience to understand the real, everyday importance of this issue. As an Assemblymember, I would expect to work with other single-payer advocates in the legislature and beyond to craft a plan that could be enacted should SB 562 fail passage.

**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)?

**X YES**  NO  OTHER

Explain (200 words maximum):

There is something Dickensian about the notion of arresting people for the simple reason that they are homeless. As a society, and in the name of humanity, we must provide the resources necessary to assist those among us who, for whatever reason, need a place to live and the support services to get through life. I quit high school in my senior year at the age of 16 because of family issues. For 20 years, I worked at a variety of jobs to support myself as I attained my GED, Bachelor's Degree and Master's Degree. There were nights when I was forced to sleep in my car. There were times when I had to choose between eating, paying the rent or buying a text book. I have participated in the annual L.A. homeless count in recent years. This issue is far bigger than just one of a place to live and the reasons why someone may be homeless are many and varied.



**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):

Absolutely. We have an obligation to act.

**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

Explain (200 words maximum):

These fees and surcharges are regressive, punitive, and distort the administration of justice.

**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?

**X YES**  NO       OTHER

Explain (200 words maximum):

I support closing the loophole, but I doubt voters will pass anything that changes Prop 13. That’s why I have put forth a plan to increase funding for government services by stimulating the economy in a way that will produce more revenue without having to raise taxes.

**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?

**X YES**  NO       OTHER

Explain (200 words maximum):

The current bail system disadvantages the defense efforts of those who cannot afford bail. It is punitive to those in middle to lower income levels. It also is unjust to those who are not guilty of any crime and have to post a bond to make bail and will never receive repayment of that money even if they are never charged.

**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 cannot give a blanket yes or no to this because the issue is too complex for that kind of answer. I believe, for instance, that we are woefully under-funding education and job training programs that can better equip inmates to function as productive members of society once released from prison. While incarceration is generally believed to be punitive, I would like to see more emphasis on rehabilitation.

The first line of defense against crime is education. That is true of those who already have been convicted of crimes as well as young people who need to be diverted from committing 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?

**X YES**  NO  OTHER

Explain (200 words maximum):

The terms are too vague and ill-defined. They are open to the interpretation of school administrators with no objective definition. They can be applied in anger and as retribution. Among the things I have proposed in my campaign is a return to a time when there were school psychologists available to every campus to identify and help youngsters before they get in trouble.

**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):

There is a delicate balance between school safety and repression of students. In my campaign, I have called for stationing of a school police officer on every campus and the training of those officers to suit the environment in which they will and work. This is very different than being a “on-the-street” police officer. School police need to be trained specifically to provide leadership of young people in stressful situations. The training must include sensitivity to avoid the kinds of situations described in this question.

**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?

**X 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?

**X YES**  NO  OTHER

Explain (200 words maximum):

Local law enforcement is charged with keeping communities safe, enforcing local laws and assisting residents in time of crisis. They never were intended to become arms of some federal program to enforce federal law. This, of course, is separate from the question of the lack of morality in ICE operations.



**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):

I believe all residents of the nation, state, or city are entitled to equal protection, regardless of their citizenship status.

## **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.

The quest for social and economic justice is central to my beliefs and will guide my actions in the Assembly. This will include counseling with all who share those goals and can help identify issues and evolve solutions, including the ACLU. As a woman of color, I am keenly aware of discrimination and bias in our society and I am committed to confronting those issues wherever they exist.

I grew up in a household that would be identified as lower-middle class. I worked to support myself from the age of 16. (I am now 46.) I've known homelessness as a personal issue. I've confronted some great challenges in my life. There are times during this campaign when I am overwhelmed by the notion that from that background I am running for a seat in the State Assembly and engaging in discussions of important issues with a wide variety of individuals and organizations of substance. I thank you for your consideration and hope to have the opportunity to represent you and work with you for the improvement of our society.