

**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):

I strongly support measures to ensure that Californians who are transgender receive broad access to care and that discriminatory laws that enable health care organizations to avoid providing this care are promptly revised. Entities that receive public funds should not be empowered by the law to discriminate against 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):

Scientifically accurate and comprehensive sex education should be provided to all students. We should hold our publicly funded charter schools and magnet school to this standard. Furthermore, when I was a high school and middle school teacher at an independent school, I invited Kaiser Permanente to the school to present their theatrical production which stresses in a hip, nonjudgmental way how STDs such as Chlamydia, genital herpes, gonorrhea, syphilis, HPV and the human immunodeficiency virus can be contracted through unprotected sex. With my science and health background, I know that it is important for our community's good culture of health to incorporate sexual health as a state of physical, emotional, mental and social well-being in relation to sexuality; not merely the absence of disease, dysfunction or infirmity. I am committed to building a culture of health in the 54th that enables all in our diverse community to lead healthier lives now and for generations to come.

**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):

I believe we must honor Californians' gender identity when determining their placement in facilities.

**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):

As Diversity and Inclusion co-chair at my work, having been involved in leadership positions within philanthropic organizations and having mentored students from middle school through graduate school, I have seen the impact of many who have experienced workplace/school harassment and discrimination speaking out publicly, taking an important public position on their experience and inspiring many others to talk openly about similar experiences. In my role as Diversity and Inclusion chair, I was able to provide the forum for others to speak out and influence management to address issues. It is time that we extend the statute of limitations to ensure employees have an appropriate recourse in the event that harassment or discrimination take place. Under challenging circumstances, many victims of discrimination and harassment do not report incidences right away yet the discrimination and harassment continues to impact them. We must stand with these victims and ensure they have appropriate recourse.

**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 shouldn't protect officers that are acting unlawfully but protecting some files from public access is appropriate. This requires a balanced approach. Citizens are empowered with federal and civil rights, and local policies that enable them to both voice minor concerns and adequately pursue more serious legal action against law enforcement. I feel these laws allow the public to respond to any concerns or serious misconduct by local law enforcement to further protect the public from abuse and misconduct. Additionally, I support the opportunities for neighborhood organizations and groups like ACLU to become more actively involved in public safety as these measures have been shown to demonstrably improve trust in police organizations, reduce complaints against law enforcement, and increase public safety.

**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

As a scientist and a researcher, I support improving techniques that have demonstrated effectiveness over the continuing current practices. Officers should be trained in de-escalation techniques and should exhaust all other alternatives before the use of force. It is unacceptable for our law enforcement officers to violate the constitutional rights of residents, particularly black and Latino community members. We must do everything we can to ensure proper training is in place so that we can dramatically reduce the high number of police shootings we are facing statewide. As a researcher who worked on a project to reduce the murder rate across the nation last year, I commend Attorney General Baccera for public releasing statewide statistics on police use of force for the first time, so that stakeholders and the public can begin to evaluate the 157 fatal police involved shooting, the demographic and regional disparities. These data are important to developing future solutions.

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):

Constitutionally, police officers are allowed to shoot under two circumstances. The first circumstance is "to protect their life or the life of another innocent party." The second circumstance is to prevent a suspect from escaping, but only if the officer has probable cause to think the suspect poses a dangerous threat to others, meaning there is prior knowledge that this suspect has committed a heinous crime that is a threat to the public's safety. Therefore, yes, deadly force should

be used only when necessary, as a last resort, when there is immediate threat or substantial risk to the public and the officer knows that the individual is suspected of a heinous crime.

**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 am committed to providing universal care and access. I have lived in a Massachusetts where this was made possible with bipartisan efforts under Governors Mitt Romney and Deval Patrick. I support any solution that works equitably and will be sustainable for future generations.



**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):

Criminalizing homelessness is unacceptable and inhumane. When I worked in CA Senate Human Services Committee, Assemblymember Tom Ammiano (D-San Francisco) introduced a homeless bill of rights to protect some of society's most vulnerable members. I believe we can do more to provide meaningful, long-term solutions to our homelessness challenges while at the same time treating people with dignity and respect. We must work with community partners to improve the quality and accessibility of services, provide meaningful work opportunities, and seek housing solutions as a significant parts of this solution.

**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):

I am running because I care about our community and California. I have grown up here and have made the 54<sup>th</sup> my home. I have dedicated my life to serving my community in the greatest capacity possible. And I believe that we need more elected officials that are trained to look at the facts and the evidence to make the best possible decisions, which is what I have trained for my entire career. Tackling the housing crisis is one of my top priorities. I have already engaged with community stakeholders, renters, homeowners, policy researchers, economists, and builders to begin to understand the complexity of this problem and develop a plan that is sustainable for future generations.

**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):

I applaud recent efforts to reduce administrative and detention fees and costly court expenses in the juvenile detention and justice system. Too many low income families have historically been expected to cover high fees. I hope to see these types of reforms move beyond the juvenile justice system as well.

**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):

Challenges with revenue exist in California because of our size and reliance on personal income tax. In good times, revenue is high, but in an economic downturn revenue from income tax is low. These swings dramatically impact our state. The solution to our financial prosperity must include a comprehensive evaluation of taxes and spending. I am concerned about the potential impact changes to Prop 13 may have on middle class families and small businesses, and specifically how this may impact job growth over the coming decade among those small businesses. I would be very willing to work on revenue and spending reform that is critical to our economic growth.

**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):

My family members have been impacted by the bail system. Through the lens of my personal experiences, as well as with the evidence of how it disproportionately affects people of color and low-income communities, I am interested in reforms to the paid bail system. This system often prevents fair and equal application of the law, keeps families deeply in debt and also fails to fulfill the intent of the law- to ensure a fair trial and representation to everyone.

**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 would support reducing sentences and feel we must do more to address the needs of those who have recently faced re-entry into the community. In my work, I have partnered with community groups, faith-based groups, and law enforcement to develop programs to address the needs many face when re-entering the community.

**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):

As a former teacher, I know that students belong in schools, and this type of punishment is ineffective and harmful to students. Students belong in the school community and we should seek reform to ensure schools have adequate resources to address student needs following serious misbehavior rather than pushing these students out of our schools. I have worked to create policy interventions at the state level to provide behavior health services at the school site to address behaviors of concern that interfere with learning and that will set students up to succeed. We need to treat students individually work toward solutions that support the student and their growth.

**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):

Law enforcement's job is to protect the public. If a school needs a permanent law enforcement officer to ensure our students' safety then that option should be available to administrators. However, we should not enable law enforcement officers to discriminate against students in the school setting or anywhere else and legal action should be taken against officers that demonstrably exhibit discriminatory practices. Schools should be a place of learning and not a place that students or families fear for their safety. This is particularly important in light of the increasing number of school shootings happening around the country.



**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

Sanctuary city laws have protected immigrant families that contribute to our communities, pay taxes and are an important part of our state. We must protect these policies to ensure these families are protected, do not live in fear of deportation and can feel confident in using law enforcement and public safety services.

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):

Immigrates regardless of status are a part of our society. They are our relatives, co-workers, classmates and neighbors. We have 1.1 million immigrants living with us in Southern California. People are too valuable, too important to our social circles to have all of us living in fear every day of deportation. Let’s work toward a united California. Let’s work to protect everyone in our social circles.

**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?

X YES  NO  OTHER

Recent data suggests that when immigrant families have access to legal counsel, a high percentage often can find a viable path to work permits and at times, citizenship. This suggests that many of these families have the capacity to pursue legal immigration proceedings and paths to citizenship and we should empower these families with the legal counsel to do so.

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

X YES  NO  OTHER

Explain (200 words maximum):

## **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.

Instilling trust in government is a challenge in all areas of government as we face a growing distrust that erodes the ability to effectively address the many challenges we face as a state. As a public servant, I will work to champion policies that are shaped by evidence and work for us all. As a scientist, teacher and minority woman, I have experienced discrimination other challenges along my way. But my path to serve continues and I deeply care about the health and well-being of our community and of California. As an Assemblywoman, I will rely on my training to engage stakeholders, gather evidence and make the best decisions possible rooted in context for all people living in the 54<sup>th</sup> and across the state.