

Assembly District 51 Candidate Survey for October 3, 2017 Special Primary Election

Thank you for the opportunity collect my thoughts on these pressing issues in a way that your members can understand how and why I will champion social justice as a Member of the Assembly. I hope this can be the beginning of a conversation about upgrading the policy making approach to reaching a prosperous and civil future that includes us all.

1. I'm committed to the social safety of California's children. So I will work with leadership, Members of other districts, community orgs to support the maintenance of robust sexual and reproductive health programs.
2. I'm committed to standing with transgendered people, Muslims, immigrants, refugees, and communities of color who are part of the fabric of Los Angeles. So, I will champion, by all available means, affirmations of the humanity of transgender people (in line with SB 396) and I would support the complete transfer of democratic power over safety in communities of color to communities of color (e.g. something like Chicago's Civilian Police Accountability Council)
3. I'm committed to transparency & accountability, and between the two prioritize accountability. I think the goal is to net increase the amount of oversight, so the value of a transparency law will depend on if it will result in reluctance by departments to performing disclosable investigations.
4. I believe an expectation for non-coercive conflict resolution is part of what it means to be a included in a society. So, California should pilot a variety of de-escalation practices and design custom programs that will decrease the risk in California of civilian fatalities in our communities.
5.
 - a. I'm publicly committing to support establishing a democratically governed model of world class coverage of health needs for all and for life. SB 562 is not yet world class and not yet democratic. If permitted, I will fulfill my commitment by re-authoring SB 562. If refused permission, I will write a new bill.
 - b. I believe most homelessness is occurring because of a systemic housing crisis and, regardless, being homeless is not a violation of obligations to society. So, I support changes to the law that un-target and de-criminalize people experiencing homelessness. I will also support laws that facilitate the creation of housing trusts and supportive services.
6. I don't believe criminal and traffic court defendants are responsible for funding the courts.
7. I believe loopholes complicate tax codes and make them less fair. So I support closing, and if possible removing, all loopholes from Proposition 13.
8. I believe California's bail system is failing defendants, the courts, and public safety. So I will commit to simply replacing California's bail system with a modern pre-trial supervision system and will support taking a step in that direction with SB 10.

9. I believe people who feel safe are less likely to be at risk of incarceration. So, I support diverting resources away from incarceration and towards the safety and health of communities that defendants disproportionately grow up in.
10. I believe the capacity for truly "willful defiance" and purposeful "disruption" develops late in childhood. So, I support eliminating these suspensions at younger ages without introducing an alternative punishment.
11. I believe the presence of law enforcement on school campuses exacerbates the discriminatory treatment of students from low income families, with disabilities, and of color. So, I support transitioning schools to using alternatives to punitive measures for disciplining students.
12. I'm committed to, and believe precedent affirms, the inclusion of all children in California as students. So, I will support schools that 1) bar immigration authorities from their campuses and 2) prohibit the sharing of immigration-related information.
13. I believe education is a more valuable public good than incarceration and I'm committed to shifting the prospects of low income students of color toward education. So, I'm only giving my approval to a state budget that increases the share going to education more than it increases the share going to prisons.
14. I believe in the independence of local law enforcement from national immigration enforcement. So, I will support policies that preserve local law enforcement's option to not engage in cooperation with federal immigration authorities including detentions and notifications to immigration agents.
15. I believe due process protections underpin the validity of proceedings. So I support making it possible for public defenders to assist everyone, without exception, in removal proceedings.