

NAME: _____

ELECTION: _____



Pajaro Valley Cesar Chavez Democratic Club
ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE

June 5th 2018 General Election

1. How long have you been a registered Democrat?

I registered as a Democrat in 2008 prior to the Presidential Primary.

2. Give three reasons why the PV Cesar Chavez Democratic Club should endorse your candidacy.

- 1) As a Public defender, I have spent my legal career representing members of underserved communities in Santa Cruz County. I have fought hard and effectively for my clients rights, thought they are often undervalued and unpopular.
- 2) Despite being a white man, I understand issues of access and inclusion intimately. As a child I watched my parents fight for my disabled brother to move out of special day programs, and into full inclusive education. I truly understand the value of fully enfranchising all members of our community. I have incorporated these values in my work doing incoming student outreach while working at Cabrillo, developing and presenting a curriculum on ocean safety to k-12 students from Watsonville to Santa Cruz, and working with at risk youth while and employee of the State Parks, doing outreach on criminal justice to students at Sequoia High School in Freedom, and as a youth advocate, defending juveniles in delinquency court for the last two years
- 3) I value South Santa Cruz County and it's resident's. I recognize that Santa Cruz is a segregated county, and that the Pajaro Valley often feels the brunt of NIMBY attitudes. I understand that schools in South County, have health and safety concerns related to agriculture practices, that are not contemplated by residents of the rest of the county. This includes pesticide overspray.

3. Describe three things you have done or plan to support Pajaro Valley Democrats and residents?

- 1) I defend indigent criminal defendants and juveniles in our local Superior Court.
- 2) I have and continue to do educational outreach to Students in South County on issues related to civil rights/ liberties, and criminal justice.
- 3) Any work I do will be informed by familiarity with the unique social justice, environmental justice, and criminal justice issues facing South County.

4. Describe your qualifications for this office? Include lived experiences as well as education.

Not only do I meet the minimum qualifications to serve as a Superior Court Judge, I have worked exclusively in Santa Cruz County Courts for the last 12 years. I have tried cases representing clients of every race, from every part of Santa Cruz County. I have vastly more experience working in the Santa Cruz Superior Court than most practicing attorneys.

5. Name three of your priorities and goals for your first two years in office.
Be fair, and apply the law.
6. How would you support bringing good paying jobs to our local community and increasing revenue for South County?

As a judge I won't be setting policy, but I believe that Judges can be leaders for the good of the community. I will use my position of leadership to improve the lives of County residents to the extent that it does not interfere with my ethical obligations as a sitting judge.

7. What impact do you plan to make while in office?

I plan to be fair and apply the law.

8. How do you plan to address the critical housing and transportation issues we face in our community?

As a judge, I won't set policy. However, in my experience, I know that going to court in Santa Cruz, is incredibly burdensome for South County residents. I will encourage Court Management Policies that are sensitive to the transportation issues and challenges facing Santa Cruz County.

9. How do you plan to incorporate our South County values in your decision-making?

I will be fair and follow the law.

10. How do you plan to strengthen the support services we provide in our community to address the growing community needs?

I do not believe I can answer this question without violating my ethical obligations as a Judicial Candidate, as it asks for specific policy actions.

Please expand on your responses...but we will read no more than *two pages* of information.

Responses will ONLY be accepted electronically via email.

Questionnaires must be submitted to Raymon Cancino or Jenny Sarmiento, by March

16, 2018, to be considered for an endorsement. Please email to chavezdems@gmail.com. Please Cc: cancino45@gmail.com and jtsarmiento831@gmail.com.

MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, MARCH 16TH TO RECEIVE CONSIDERATION AT OUR ENDORSEMENT MEETING