

Name: Assemblymember Tony Thurmond

Website: www.tonythurmond.com

Line of work: I am currently completing my first term in the assembly. Prior to my service, I was a social worker.

1) Why are you running for State Assembly? What are your qualifications? What have you accomplished in any offices that you now hold or have recently held?

I have worked hard for the residents of Assembly District 15 and, together, we have accomplished much together. Please see a list of accomplishments I am proud of at www.TonyThurmond.com/together.

2) Where are you getting the money to run your campaign? Are there any sources of financial contributions for your campaign that you refuse to accept? Do you feel it is important to get corporate money out of politics?

I am reaching out to donors who want to support my efforts to put children, families and seniors first in the California Assembly. I believe we need to fundamentally overhaul our campaign finance system – starting with overturning the Citizens United decision.

3) Are you interested in the contributions and the opinions of individual constituents in your district? What must a constituent do in order to meet with you?

Absolutely. All a constituent needs to do is contact one of my offices to set up an appointment. There are multiple ways to contact the offices listed at: <http://asmdc.org/members/a15/>.

4) Please give us your position on the following issues. Indicate your sponsorship and/or votes on any previous relevant legislation, and plans for future legislation:

-- Budget deficits

I have worked to protect the most vulnerable Californians in the budget process. I Chair of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1 on Health

and Human Services. Please take a look at our progress at <http://www.tonythurmond.com/together/>.

I also believe we need to bring more fairness to our tax system, including extending Prop. 30, reforming the 2/3 requirement for passage of tax measures and reforming Prop. 13.

-- Controlling the corrupting influence of profit-driven prescription drug and vaccine manufacturers

I have fought to make health care more affordable – I support a single-payer model – and have long supported giving the government more power to negotiate prescription drug prices. I supported AB 463 (Chiu) but it never went to a vote. I supported a bill through Budget Subcommittee No. 1 that proposed reducing the price of Naloxone to MediCal recipients. It did not make the final cut, I proposed its placement in the budget.

-- Fracking, and other environmental regulations

I oppose fracking and have been a fierce advocate for environmental justice and environmental protection. In the Assembly, I have earned a 100% score on the legislative scorecards of the California Environmental Justice Alliance and the California League of Conservation Voters 100%. I am also endorsed by the Sierra Club in my current campaign.

-- Income, wealth, and tax inequality

I coauthored the bill that created California's first earned income tax credit to help address the staggering economic inequality that still exists in our communities today. I have fought to address economic inequality throughout my career in public service and in the nonprofit sector. The East Bay is blessed with the most astounding riches in California; yet too many of our neighbors suffer in poverty. For me, it all comes down to this shocking statistic: A child born in the poorest neighborhoods of the East Bay can expect to die almost 15 years earlier than a child born in its wealthiest neighborhoods. If being a progressive means anything, it means fighting with everything we have to end this injustice.

-- Minority rights

I have spent my life fighting against discrimination. It is and will continue to be one of my highest priority in my professional and personal lives. This year, I have authored AB 2667, to ensure that the waivers of civil rights under the Unruh Civil Rights Act, including the right to go to court, are entered into with the consent of the consumer – requiring that such waivers be knowing, voluntary and in writing. The bill would also require that such waivers not expressly be made as a condition of entering a contract.

-- Police and prison reform

Police and prison reform are vital parts of the larger issue of reforming our criminal justice system. We need to end the revolving door in our prisons, make sure we have effective diversion programs that give young people or people facing mental health challenges the help they need and focus our limited public safety resources on real criminals, effective training programs that emphasize cultural awareness and deescalation protocols – and the list goes on and on. On a broader scale, we must improve access education, job-skills and mental health treatment so that our people are not at risk of entering the criminal justice system in the first place.

-- Proportional representation/ Ranked choice voting

I support electoral reform – and look forward to seeing how alternative methods like ranked choice voting and proportional representation affect voter turnout and election outcomes.

-- Rent control

I support rent control and a host of measures that will help make rental housing and homeownership more affordable.

-- Single payer healthcare

I am a long-time, public supporter of single-payer health care

-- Tuition-free higher education

I support efforts to achieve tuition-free higher education.

5) An unanticipated consequence of the passage of 2010's Prop. 14 is that candidates from small political parties now need to gather vastly more signatures-in-lieu of the filing fee -- for example, 10,000 valid signatures for statewide candidates instead of the previous 150. Will you help us lower this number?

I want to create an environment where every Californian is engaged in the political process. I am open to having a conversation with you about this.

6) Will you introduce and sponsor, or co-sponsor if already introduced, legislation creating a public Bank of California, similar to the state-owned Bank of North Dakota? Such an entity would hold the State's money instead of depositing it in Wall Street banks, and make infrastructure loans, loans in partnership with community banks, and other loans based on the best interests of the people of California, not banker profits. A bill which would have accomplished this, AB 2500, was introduced to the California legislature in 2012. How did you/ would you vote on it? Here is the text:

http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/11-12/bill/asm/ab_2451-2500/ab_2500_bill_20120224_introduced.html

Bank of North Dakota website and article: <https://bnd.nd.gov/>, <http://www.motherjones.com/mojo/2009/03/how-nation%E2%80%99s-only-state-owned-bank-became-envy-wall-street>

With the Big Banks crippling the U.S. economy in 2008, I would be open to learning more about effective alternative banking options. I'm in favor of what works best for the people... instead of Wall Street.

7) Are there any other important challenges facing California? What will you do to address them? Anything else you would like us to know about the goals of your candidacy?

There are many challenges facing California. I ran for Assembly in 2014 to put children, families and seniors first in the California Assembly; that will continue to be my focus should the voters give me a second term.

8) *What endorsements have you received?*

California Democratic Party
Alameda County Central Labor Council
Alameda County Firefighters Local 55
Berkeley Firefighters Local 1227
CalFire Local 2881
California Nurses Association
California Professional Firefighters
California School Employees Association
California State Building Trades Council
California Teachers Association
Contra Costa Firefighters Local 1230
Contra Costa Central Labor Council
Richmond Firefighters Local 188
Sierra Club
SEIU California
United Farm Workers
United Food and Commercial Workers
Congresswoman Barbara Lee
Congressman Mark DeSaulnier
Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom
Attorney General Kamala Harris
State Senator Loni Hancock
Assemblymember Rob Bonta
Supervisor John Gioia
Supervisor Keith Carson
(partial list)