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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 am running because incremental change is not going to cut it in a country with soaring inequality and a climate that desperately needs our attention. I believe we can rein in these serious issues through bold solutions that bring about structural changes in our economy. We need to provide a basic standard of living independent of one's ability to find work through single-payer healthcare, affordable housing and a universal basic income. We can pay for these through a progressive income tax, corporate tax and carbon dividend.

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 accept money from developers or corporations, or their PACs?"

I am fundraising mainly through friends and family. I do not accept corporate donations, or from sources prominently linked to oil or coal. I am only accepting donations up to \$2,200, which is half the legal maximum.

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. They can reach out through my website or email me at owen@owenpoindexter.com.

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

While the current deficit itself is not a major issue, the driving forces behind it, namely pension obligations will have to be addressed. We have an obligation to meet the promises we have made to public employees, but we also may need to restructure retirement accounts to be more sustainable in the long term. This will be significantly easier when we are providing financial stability as a basic human right.

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

This will be an ongoing fight, even if we achieve single-payer healthcare in California. Prescription drug and vaccine manufacturers will always push for the highest prices they can get. A single-payer system will increase our bargaining power, and campaign finance reform will decrease their political clout. These reforms will allow us to provide universal access to vaccines and needed drugs at an affordable price.

-- Fracking, and other environmental regulations

Let's ban fracking. It moves us away from a renewable energy future, poisons groundwater and causes earthquakes.

I am making a strong push for a carbon dividend in California. This idea, proposed last summer by Sens. De Leon and Wieckowski, would allow us to raise the price of carbon in a non-regressive manner. By simply returning revenue from a carbon extraction fee in the form of a quarterly citizen's dividend, we can fight poverty and climate change at the same time.

I also support the push toward zero net energy buildings, and I support ongoing improvements to BART and our mass transit systems. We should also look into congestion pricing on our toll roads.

-- Income, wealth, and tax inequality

We need to follow Hawaii's lead and declare that financial security is a basic human right and that we should look into various methods such as universal basic income to make that happen—support for basic income is now part of the California Democratic Party platform. We should also follow Alaska's lead and provide unconditional cash to every person in California on a regular basis. We can do this through a carbon dividend (fighting climate change) and a progressive income tax (fighting wealth inequality).

-- Minority rights

We need to get serious about prison reform, police reform, ending cash bail, restorative justice, and housing discrimination. All prisoner labor should be voluntary and pay at least minimum wage. Incarceration is an act of violence and should be treated as a last resort. Let's put body cameras on every police officer and have an automatic investigation on any case involving police violence. Lastly, let's create a universal right to counsel for anyone facing eviction.

-- Police and prison reform

While I addressed many of my proposed reforms in the section above, I'll add that public prisons are just as bad as private prisons in almost every way. If we eliminate private prisons without addressing the other issues in our criminal justice system, we will have accomplished nothing.

-- Proportional representation/ Ranked choice voting

Very much in favor. Voters should be able to state their wishes without worrying about electability. We should also greatly increase the number of members in the State Assembly. California has 80 members in its lower house. Virginia has 100. Connecticut, with a population one tenth of California has 151. Representatives could do a better job representing their people if the districts were a reasonable size.

-- Rent control

Repeal Costa-Hawkins. If developers have legitimate concerns about the profitability of new housing, they can take those up at the city and county level, but there is no good justification for preventing cities from protecting renters.

-- Single payer healthcare

Yes! This is a more efficient system, once established, and a more humane one. We should not have a society in which one's health outcomes are so determined by one's income.

-- Tuition-free higher education

This is an excellent long-term goal which will take time to achieve. In the interest of equity, my priority is on universal pre-K and an excellent free education through high school. The goal is that everyone can get a top quality education for free.

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, 7,000 valid signatures for statewide candidates instead of the previous 150. Will you help us lower this number?

Yes. Or at least allow candidates to gather signatures online. The current burden doesn't seem to serve much purpose.

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.

Yes. This will be great for investment in public projects, local businesses, the cannabis industry, and, most importantly, getting unbanked low-income people into the banking system. Being unbanked is one way in which it is very expensive to be poor.

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?

Let's get to 100% renewable by 2045. I still believe in the goal of connecting the state's major cities through a high-speed rail system. I believe in lower donation limits and public matching funds for political candidates.

8) What endorsements have you received?

9) Anything you would like to add?

If you are interested in learning more about the idea of universal basic income, one great resource is the Basic Income Podcast, which I co-host.