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Current line of work: Attorney at the Homeless Action Center

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 entered this race because I was concerned about the impact of big money in politics. I think the high cost of running a campaign is a real threat to our democracy. I am a political novice but have a deep understanding of many issues in my district.

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 only taking contributions from individual donors. I am running a very lean campaign.

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?

Yes, I am very interested. I have a Facebook page that I use to answer questions. I would be happy to meet with people. Meetings could be arranged via email or my facebook page.

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

My first piece of legislation would be to reform proposition 13. This would restore part of a historic revenue stream. I would also advocate for a plastic tax. This would be helpful both to the budget and the oceans. The 15th district has a long stretch of shoreline so I think this would be an appropriate piece of legislation for its assemblyperson to spearhead.

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

The provision of basic human necessities should never involve such an enormous private profit margin. It necessarily leads to corruption. I would advocate for controlling the cost of prescription drugs.

-- Fracking, and other environmental regulations

I would work to ban fracking, instate a tax on plastics, create stronger controls on the sale of household and garden pesticides and herbicides, limiting urban sprawl and encouraging sustainable urban infill development,

-- Income, wealth, and tax inequality

I would advocate for a tax on wealth for people making over a certain amount of money. I will work to help low income individuals own the homes they live in. Even below market rent in the Bay Area is high and the wealth of the people paying this rent continues to flow to developers and landlords. I believe that this is the single most important way in which people with low incomes are trapped in a position of being unable to build wealth and being unable to escape poverty.

-- Minority rights

I would fight discrimination and demand accountability from entities guilty of this abuse.

-- Police and prison reform

There should be no profit motive in incarceration.

I would work to ban private prisons. I would work to ensure that people working in prison industry are paid a fair wage and provided with the ability to work in a similar capacity upon leaving prison. All too often it seems that it is easier for some people to find a job from behind bars.

I would work to develop a system in California whereby an entity other than the District Attorney is responsible for prosecuting police misconduct. The relationship between the police and the DA is necessarily symbiotic and it is unreasonable to expect that the DA could be objective in any police prosecution.

-- Proportional representation/ Ranked choice voting

I am in favor of ranked choice voting. It allows people to vote for the candidate they really want rather than against the candidate they fear. I would like to learn more about how proportional

representation would work outside of the context of a council or board type of election at large. Within that context I think it has the potential to increase the fairness of an election.

-- Rent control

I would support rent control. It is an important tool for helping prevent the displacement of local families. I would also advocate for increased home ownership for low income tenants. One example of a strategy would be to require large new developments to include a certain number of units for ownership by low income and very low income individuals who can prove they have a substantial residency status. People whose families have contributed to communities for generations should be afforded protection from displacement by those communities.

-- Single payer healthcare

I am in favor of single payer healthcare. High quality healthcare is a human right and should be available to everyone at no cost. I would make this a priority.

-- Tuition-free higher education

I am in favor of tuition free higher education. I would add that this should include technical education so that local people can benefit from some of the living wage jobs in the area.

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

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

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?

Rapidly increasing population in California is already presenting a challenge in terms of housing among other things. It is a challenge that can be expected to grow.

8) What endorsements have you received?

I only have endorsements from individuals. I entered this race very late.

9) Anything you would like to add?

The 15th district has a major wildland interface. Given the reality of climate change and the accompanying inevitability of fire, it is crucial to have a strong system of first responders and a functioning and effective early warning system for residents.

While I believe that preventing the displacement of local residents is the responsibility of local government, I believe that the responsibility for housing the residents of the sprawling homeless encampments in our area lies with the state and maybe even the federal government. There needs to be a coherent system of housing and treating the often seriously ill individuals who live in these encampments. It can not be left up to individual municipalities. There is currently a budget surplus that is being considered for this purpose. I feel strongly that this money should be spent at the state level for housing thereby involving only one bureaucracy rather than being distributed to municipalities for a patchwork of solutions and several different bureaucracies.

I do not believe that quality of life, human rights, environmental sustainability, and economic prosperity are all mutually exclusive goals. We can have it all.