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Current line of work: Software Engineer

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 currently work as a Software Engineer at a company called Outco, which specializes in educating and training engineers to help them accelerate their job search by teaching them technical and interpersonal skills. Before that I held several jobs in Educational Technology and studied Biology and Environmental Economics and Policy at UC Berkeley.

I'm a firm believer in science and technology. In college, I studied the effects of global warming on marine ecosystems on the island of Moorea in French Polynesia where I was able to see the impact of environmental degradation first hand. I think the challenges my and future generations will face regarding the state of our planet will be some of the toughest yet.

But I still have hope, and one thing I wanted to show other Millennials by running this campaign was that we CAN take action for the things we believe. It isn't enough to just be active on social media, we actually have to out and run campaigns, meet people, learn about the issues in our communities and get our message out proactively. And that the way to make an impact and start larger movements is to be patient and to define ourselves by what we stand for, not just what we stand against.

The main issue I'm campaigning for is to change the political process as a whole at a fundamental level through liquid democracy and united.vote. The goal with that platform is to give users more insight into what their representatives are voting on and allow them to give their input, either directly or by delegating their vote to someone they trust. This would use the best parts of direct and representative democracy and hopefully allow us to make better collective decisions overall.

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?”

Right now I'm completely self-funded, and don't expect any major contributions from corporations. I may at some point do some online crowdfunding.

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?

It's pretty easy to meet with me, just email or reach out to me on social media.

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 believe in keeping a balanced budget, but in times of need like recessions I do think the government should have the ability to step in and provide relief, especially to people in vulnerable situations. But this would have to be balanced out during times of prosperity by running some kind of surplus, that ideally would come from higher taxes on the wealthy.

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

I believe in modern medicine and the value of prescription drugs and vaccines. With that said, I think pharmaceutical companies are more concerned with innovating to maintain their patents rather than actually helping people. One specific issue I would push for is making it illegal to advertise drugs on television since it biases people towards asking their doctors for those drugs, rather than less-expensive alternatives. Also, the over-prescription of opioids and ADHD medication needs to end. They are highly-addictive and dangerous drugs that need to be given out very carefully.

-- Fracking, and other environmental regulations

I think we need to push to be completely off fossil fuels and move towards renewables. As far as fracking specifically, I think it's incredibly dangerous and has the potential to irreparably contaminate our groundwater, and worsens our addiction to fossil fuels. We should be focusing our efforts on solar and energy storage instead, giving incentives to businesses that are innovating in those fields.

-- Income, wealth, and tax inequality

I'm for progressive taxes, but I do think the wealthy are good at finding loopholes that aren't available to most people, so they would have to be implemented in a way that are difficult to circumvent. One thing I would push for specifically is rolling back prop 13 to help fund public schools. Before the law was passed we had some of the best schools in the country, but now we're ranked among the lowest.

-- Minority rights

Coming from immigrant parents I think this is an important issue to fight for. I think we should make it easier for people to come to this country legally because, contrary to popular belief on the right, immigration actually helps the economy. But at a deeper level, we need to start developing a more welcoming culture and provide more spaces for cultural exchange and integration. This country, and this state especially, was built by immigrants and that diversity is one of our strengths and most valuable assets.

-- Police and prison reform

This is a very difficult subject. I think there needs to be more accountability and training to prevent shootings, as well as more community outreach. I also think private prisons should be illegal. The incentives for those businesses are completely misaligned with the interests of the communities they supposedly serve because business is better when there are harsher punishments and higher rates of recidivism. This leads to all kinds of abuse that the taxpayers end up paying for, and rather than rehabilitating people, we end up ruining lives and communities, disproportionately ones made up by minorities.

-- Proportional representation/ Ranked choice voting

That's one of the biggest issues I'm fighting for. Check out what we're building at <http://www.united.vote>. I think one of the most important things we need to work on is how to improve our collective decision-making process. With United we're trying to make things fairer, more transparent and hold politicians more accountable.

-- Rent control

I'm for affordable housing, whatever shape that takes. Right now, the supply of housing is not able to keep up with demand, and this is leading to all kinds of distortions.. People without rent control are not getting very good value for their money, and it's not allowing younger people to save and pay off their student debts. To a lot of people who have been living in the area for a long

time and who have rent control, it's the only way they are able to afford to stay here and they make up a vital part of our communities. Ultimately we're going to need more affordable housing and we're going to have to invest in developing our transportation infrastructure further to reduce traffic, pollution and commute times. So I think it's a complex problem with a lot of moving parts.

-- Single payer healthcare

I'm for whatever will bring down costs of healthcare.. I think it's completely insane that it costs hundreds of dollars for a single doctor visit, or that it costs \$15 for a Tylenol. It's completely abusive and needs to end. I think a single payer system is looking like the best solution, but rolling it out is going to be met with a lot of resistance.

-- Tuition-free higher education

I think people should have the ability to get an affordable education. But in its current form, I don't think there's any way for that to happen sustainably. I graduated from UC Berkeley in 2014 and I think we need to completely redesign how we educate people. There's a large emphasis on teaching to the test, and not teaching practical skills or skills that are important for the job market. It's also unclear to me why tuition is increasing at a such a staggering rate when the cost of education should be going down, if anything. We all have access to information and resources far more quickly and cheaply than ever before, and yet we spend insane amounts every semester on textbooks and readers. So if there's one concrete thing I'd push for it would be to have Universities move away completely from the textbook model, which is completely outdated and wasteful (both in a material and financial sense) towards a more digital solution that doesn't subsidize massive textbook companies.

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?

Absolutely. It doesn't make sense to add even more barriers to entry into the political process for candidates from small political parties. The deck is already stacked against them, I don't see any reason to tip the scales further.

One of the big issues in my campaign and the Liquid Democracy movement as a whole is the need to move a way from the two party system. I think a lot of people, especially in California,

agree with many of the views of the Green Party, but our government's policies don't necessarily represent those views because of the two party system.

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.

I'd have to look into the issue more. It seems like a good idea, but I'd have to look at the data. North Dakota and California are very different states, with very different people and economies. But I don't trust Wall Street banks with state money, especially after the Great Recession, and it might be time we implement something like a public bank. I do however think there will be significant pushback into getting legislation for this passed, since Wall Street would stand to lose a lot of money from this.

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?

I think one of the biggest challenges and opportunities that California faces is technological change. The rate of change is only going to increase, and it's going to disrupt a lot of people's jobs and livelihoods.. One thing I'm particularly concerned about in the near term is how autonomous vehicles will put a lot of drivers out of work.

But at the same time, the kind of work that will get replaced first is usually tedious and repetitive, which on the whole I think is good for society. In theory, it should free up our time to pursue more meaningful types of work. But when the benefits of automation only go to a few people at the top, and there's no compensation to the people who's jobs just got replaced, the wealth doesn't go around, and overall we end up worse off and with a greater imbalance of wealth.

One idea I support is a universal basic income, where people's basic needs are met, but the road to implementing that is going to be long and full of challenges. I don't have all the answers, but I'm up for the challenge of finding them.

8) What endorsements have you received?

None so far.

9) Anything you would like to add?

Given the wide field of candidates running for district 15, I feel confident that members of the Green Party will be able to choose someone who will uphold their views best in this election, and it seems like most of us who are running have views aligned with yours.

If I have one ask its that voters check out our platform at <<http://www.united.vote>>www.united.vote and use it to speak to their representatives. The hope is that this platform will outlast this single campaign and that it will allow voters to express their views more directly and effectively to their representatives and give them more transparency into how their elected officials are voting.

And my invitation for everyone reading this is to join us in the larger movement towards Liquid Democracy. I truly believe it's a better system of governing and making collective decisions. It's just a matter of time before we all adopt it.

