

**Napa County Latinx Democratic Club
Candidate Questionnaire
NVUSD & NVC Board of Trustees
DEADLINE FOR RETURN: September 11, 2020**

Candidates Name: Ines DeLuna **Area/District:** Area 6

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Party Affiliation: Democrat **Campaign ID #:** _____

Campaign Manager: _____ **Contact #:** _____

Candidate Specific Questions

1. What qualifications do you have for the office you're running for and why do you deserve the Napa County Latinx Democratic Club's endorsement?

I have always believed that education is the pathway to success and empowerment. I struggled with continuing my education and don't want that for anybody else, I have ensured that my children have continued their education and want the same thing for all students.

I previously served two terms on the St. Helena School Board beginning in 2003. I also served on other boards in an effort to continue serving my community. I hope to deserve the endorsement of the NCLDC because I truly believe in furthering the goals and visions of the club. A club like this is long overdue in the county and I truly believe the club can make a difference for the Latinx community.

2. What are your top three priorities, and how will you ensure that you accomplish those?
 1. Completing the student housing planned for the Napa Valley College
 2. Expanding the viticulture program for the Napa Valley College, in an effort to bring in more students of all ages to further their job opportunities.
 - 3.

Issues

3. How will you tackle the next upcoming natural and public health disaster and how will this plan actively engage the Latinx Community? What is your plan to ensure that disaster planning is culturally competent and provides language access to all parents, students, community members, and employees?

I would like to ensure that the Napa Valley College is open to the community in a disaster and that all feel welcome and secure when coming to the college for assistance. The college should be a hub for community services for the county. The

up-valley campus should also be opened for shelter and assistance during a time of need.

I would hope to work with all agencies to ensure that communication is sent out to the community in all necessary languages as soon as possible. Our agencies should make it a point to visit hubs of community centers and churches to ensure that the all members of our community feel safe. I would work with the local radio station to be the center of communication for our community in any language.

4. What is your stance on Black Lives Matter? How do you link this movement to the needs of the Latinx community and your constituents?

I feel that the Black and Brown community face the same issues and racial disparities. The systemic racism we face is deeply ingrained, having one or two representatives on boards in each city is NOT enough. We need our voices heard in as many ways as possible. Only with training, openness and willingness by all members of the community to actively make a change will we make a difference.

5. What is your stance on re-appropriating police funding? What does this mean to you in your role and what policies will you pursue to address this call to action? How do you implement restorative justice policies?

I am not sure what I can do directly in my role through the college, but if I can have any influence on the police academy that takes place at the college I would definitely ask that a cultural competency training be required and that officers receive more training and education in general. I do believe that funding needs to be scrutinized for police departments and instead of just adding manpower in our communities we need to add trainings, programs to increase community engagement, more officers of various cultural backgrounds.

As an elected official I feel that I have a special role and responsibility in my community to speak on my own experience and the issues I see my people dealing with every day.

6. Governor Newsome just signed ethnic studies to be part of the CSU curriculum. What would be your approach to ensure that an ethnic study is part of the core curriculum in your jurisdiction?

I would work towards having Ethnic Studies and Social empowerment classes be a requirement for graduation from the community college for any degree.

7. Families of all ranges, including educators, continue leaving our community because it is too expensive for them to live here. Many families are doing long commutes in order to work here, therefore increasing their carbon footprint, missing on important family time, and much more. Additionally, because families are leaving our community, we continue to see a reduction in enrollment, and a couple of schools have been forced to close.

What is your commitment, plan, and role to help improve the quality of life for students, families, and educators? And will those efforts help families that live here to remain here?

First of all, it is difficult to have professors and teachers of diverse backgrounds teaching in our community because they are in high demand in other areas of our state. We must do a lot of outreach to bring teachers to our area that have more in common with our community.

Having said that, I agree that we need to ensure that we either offer incentives to live in the area as far as higher salaries or living stipend.

I would also work with the City and County to help build affordable housing for medium and low-income families. Our community thrives because of the families that build it and if we don't have children and families then we lose our way.

We need to make affordable housing a countywide multi agency effort.

8. What hiring processes will you use to pursue and increase the diversity of your staff?

We would need to hire a headhunter to go out and pursue talent that is not only qualified academically but also culturally competent and sensitive.

We need to make connections in other areas, with colleges with great teaching practices where quality teachers are graduating from and can come and teach at our schools. We need to create a master professor who can train our new professors and guide them for their first years through our college.

9. Although schools are closed, and students and families are doing online schooling, there is still a great and dire need for food access and wrap-around services provided by school services (like school lunch, after school, etc.), what would you do to ensure that these services are still accessible?

First of all we need to ensure that all of our students HAVE access to wifi and technology.

Teachers must make an effort to connect with students and create opportunities for questions and tutoring. As a college we need to help teachers to accomplish this.

10. What is at least one specific thing you can do as an elected official to address the needs of LGBTQIA+ Students, Faculty, and Families? I can ensure that all community member regardless of how they identify feel comfortable at our campus, through outreach and sensitivity training. Providing access to all students to forums or avenues to express any discomfort or complaint and for our administrators to quickly address issues that are brought up.

11. Would you consider making the jurisdiction you're running for a Sanctuary Jurisdiction? Yes No

Additional Comments:

I feel that our community deserves and needs to be a sanctuary city/county.

12. A large percentage of our students are considered "At Promise" youth. What will you do in your administration to actively close the achievement gap among our youth?

- At the college level, what are you doing to ensure that students apply and enroll in 4-year universities/continuation of their higher education?

As a new trustee I would work to ensure that all students and our at-promise youth have easy access to our school and can transition quickly and seamlessly from current education to college education. Offer counseling and create outreach groups that can speak to parents or guardians about opportunities for continued education. To quell their fears and fears towards continued education. Also, to provide enough financial assistance to not impose a financial hardship on the family.

In short we need to think of all the excuses that families have for their children/students to not go to college and address them as a community. I believe that together we can do this.