

**Napa County Latinx Democratic Club
Candidate Questionnaire
DEADLINE FOR RETURN: September 4, 2020**

Candidates Name: Rep. Mike Thompson **Area/District:** California Congressional District 5

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Party Affiliation: _Democrat_____ **Campaign ID #:** _ C00326363_____

Campaign Manager: _Mary Jane Bowker_____ **Contact #:** _(707) 226-8989_____

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 strongly support the Napa County Latinx Democratic Club's mission of working within the Democratic Party and community at large to bring Latinx issues to the forefront and ensure that all Latinos are given meaningful opportunities. Your efforts to give Latinx issues the attention they deserve is extremely important, and I would be honored to receive your endorsement tonight

Fighting for the Latinx community along with all minority communities is more critical than ever before. Since the President launched his campaign in 2016 our Latinx community has been under assault. We must be visible and vigilant as our diversity is our strength.

Throughout my career, I have fought for equality, equity and opportunity for our Latinx community as well as all minorities who have traditionally not received the same opportunities or advantages by:

- Supporting comprehensive immigration reform that provides dignity to all immigrants and a clear path to citizenship.
- Supporting DACA recipients by cosponsoring the Dream and Promise Act, H.R. 6 which passed the House last year.
- Successfully, blocking ICE from operating in our community during multiple natural disasters, ensuring evacuation centers were safe for all survivors.
- Advocating directly to ICE to remove the word Police from their jackets and ensure they are identifiable to the public.
- Supporting increased funding for the federal TRiO program which aims to serve and assist low-income individuals, first-generation college students, and individuals with

disabilities to progress through the academic pipeline from middle school to post-baccalaureate programs.

- Cosponsoring the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2020, H.R. 7120. This bill makes it both easier to prosecute police misconduct and easier to bring civil lawsuits against police officers who utilize excessive use of force. It would also give the Department of Justice more power to investigate police departments and incentivize states to set up independent structures to investigate officer-involved deaths. In addition, the bill would create a National Police Misconduct Registry to prevent bad cops from getting hired in other jurisdictions and require law enforcement agencies to report use of force statistics disaggregated by race, sex, disability, religion, and age. Finally, the Justice in Policing Act would make lynching a federal crime.
- Created and continues to work with my local Immigration Advisory Group which is made up of different Latinx community stakeholders and ensures I am actively working on the issues facing our Latinx community.
- Actively supporting local organizations like initiatives like Connecting Latino Voices and OLE Health.

My record shows that the Fifth Congressional District, the Latinx community and all minority communities, have my full attention. I go to bed every night and wake up every morning thinking about how I can help to provide opportunities and equity to all in our community.

I respectfully request your endorsement and thank you for your consideration.

2. Please include an example of your leadership on Latinx issues? Also, what will you do as an elected official to ensure that POC and our Latinx communities are represented?

As stated above I have fought for Latinx issues and minority communities throughout my career by:

- Created and continue to work with my local Immigration Advisory Committee which is made up of different Latinx community stakeholders and ensures I am actively working on the issues facing our Latinx community
- Supporting comprehensive immigration reform that provides dignity to all immigrants and a clear path to citizenship.
- Supporting DACA recipients by cosponsoring the Dream and Promise Act, H.R. 6 which passed the House last year.
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- Actively supporting local organizations like initiatives like Connecting Latino Voices and OLE Health

In addition to working to provide opportunities to and equity for the Latinx community I work hard to ensure Latinx youth are aware of my Student Leaders Council and internship opportunities in my office.

3. What are your top three priorities, and how will you ensure that you accomplish those?

Issues

The two highest priorities facing our community and our country are climate change and access to mental healthcare. In addition, as your representative my top priorities are growing our local economy, creating good jobs and strengthening our middle class. That's why I'm fighting for job creating investments in infrastructure, energy and education that will put people to work now and put our economy on solid ground for years to come. If we make these investments, our district and our country will be better off – it will be a place where our middle class is strong and secure, where hard work is rewarded, where everybody gets a fair shot, and everyone has the opportunity to succeed.

4. Latinx community members are often deemed essential workers, what will you do to mitigate the effects essential workers suffer during this pandemic, including your employees?

Democrats have made ensuring the safety of our essential workers a top priority. Almost four months ago the House passed the Heroes Act, H.R. 6800. This bill:

- Requires OSHA to issue a standard to require employers to develop and implement infection control plans to protect workers based on CDC and other expert guidance.
- Creates a nearly \$200 billion fund to support premium pay for essential frontline private sector employees, and state, local, and Tribal government employees who are sustaining our communities and our economy during the pandemic.

- Expands emergency paid family, medical, and sick leave benefits to millions of essential workers by eliminating exemptions that prevented workers from accessing emergency paid leave during a pandemic.

As negotiations continue, I have championed our most vulnerable essential workers by joining my colleagues in writing to the White House Coronavirus Task Force, requesting N-95 masks and the delivery of other necessary Personal Protective Equipment for California's agricultural workforce.

Since the onset of the pandemic I have worked hard to keep my employees safe by providing all my staff with the opportunity and the resources needed to work remotely and safely from their homes. The safety of my employees is my highest priority and ensures we can continue to serve our district.

5. 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?

Our community has been hit year after year by unprecedented natural disasters. We must always work to be better prepared and ensure that no one in our community is left behind. As I have in the past, I will continue to fight for federal resources to not only be available for everyone but to be provided in multiple languages including Spanish. I will continue to work with both local governments and nonprofits that have been working the front lines of disasters to ensure everyone has access to the resources they need to recover.

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

Black lives matter. The Black Lives Matter movement has brought much-needed national attention to decades of structural bias, discrimination and racism in our nation's policing. According to the Stanford Open Policing Project, Black and Latinx individuals experience "significant racial disparities in policing." That's why I cosponsored and voted for the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, H.R. 7120. Among other provisions, this bill would prohibit law enforcement from engaging in racial profiling and improve training to address bias and aggressive tactics.

7. 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?

I agree more social services are needed to address racial disparities in policing and in America more broadly. While police budgets are set at the local level, as your federal representative I will continue working to help states and localities receive the resources they need to expand social services.

8. Families of all ranges 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. What is your commitment and plan to increase workforce housing so families that work here are able to live here? And what will you do to help keep families that are living here to remain here (e.g. increase the quality of life, health and wellness, youth and children activities, etc....)

Middle-class families have not seen the income gains that previous generations have seen. My number one priority as your member of Congress is growing our economy, creating good jobs and strengthening our middle class. That's why I'm fighting for job creating investments in infrastructure, energy and education that will put people to work now and put our economy on solid ground for years to come. If we make these investments, our district and our country will be better off – it will be a place where our middle class is strong and secure, where hard work is rewarded, where everybody gets a fair shot, and everyone has the opportunity to succeed.

Throughout my career, I have fought for working families by:

- Cosponsoring the “Raise the Wage Act of 2019”. This bill would increase the federal minimum wage from the current level of \$7.25 to \$15.00 an hour by 2024.
- Voting to pass the Child Care Is Essential Act which would provide grant money to child care providers in an effort to help the facilities reopen safely amid the coronavirus pandemic and the Child Care for Economic Recovery Act which includes a number of tax provisions that are aimed at making child care more affordable for families and providing assistance to child-care providers.

9. Do you believe it is the role of elected officials to take policy steps to assure adequate affordable housing? Yes X No _____

9a. Specifically, what suggestions do you have to make housing more affordable? And would you support requiring new developments to set aside a certain percentage of affordable housing?

As Chairman of House Ways and Means subcommittee that handles tax policy, I will continue to support and fight to advance tax policy that addresses housing affordability using Federal tax incentives such as the low-income housing tax credit, the rehabilitation tax credit, and tax-exempt bonds, which encourage investments in affordable housing. This includes voting for legislation that has provided more than \$90 million of federal funding to support affordable housing and combat homelessness in our district last year alone. And, I recently enacted legislation to providing an additional \$100 million in low-income housing tax credits to support the areas hit hard by disaster in our district. As for requirements for new developments, zoning rules are set at the local and state level and as your federal representative it is not within my jurisdiction.

10. According to a report from July 28th, 2020, homelessness has continued to increase for the last several years in Napa County. In 2016, 317 people were reported to be homeless. In 2020,

it reported 464 people. What can you do in the role you're running for to address this important and growing issue?

I work closely with local elected, municipalities, counties and local businesses to advocate and support their Federal funding needs. Throughout our district I have supported and advocated for local applications for grants that specifically would go towards affordable housing, workforce development, and creating jobs locally. I am a proud cosponsor of H.R.5813, the Pathway to Stable and Affordable Housing for All Act. This bill increases funding into federal homeless assistance and affordable housing programs. Specifically, it sets forth a 10-year investment plan that provides \$10 billion per year for Emergency Solutions Grants; \$10 billion per year for Continuum of Care Grants so organizations can move those experiencing homelessness into the shelter system and provide needed supports; \$40 billion per year direct appropriation to the Housing Trust Fund – on top of the existing funding provided by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac – to begin to chip away at the deficit of units in our nation's affordable housing stock; and fully funding tenant-based rental assistance to allow all eligible households to get into permanent, safe, affordable housing.

11. In the role you're running for, what can you do to help ensure that transportation meets the needs of youth, working people, families, and seniors?

Our nation's infrastructure is in desperate need of modernization. In July, the House passed the Moving Forward Act, H.R. 2. I was proud to cosponsor this \$1.5 trillion package that invests in our nation's infrastructure – our roads, bridges, ports and transit systems. This legislation will also help create good-paying jobs that we need now more than ever as we face recovery from the Coronavirus pandemic. And it will help us modernize our infrastructure and our public transportation system so it can better withstand disasters, help tackle the threat of climate change and meet our communities growing needs.

12. What action steps will you take to diversify the local workforce in your city or town? Additionally, what hiring processes will you pursue to increase the diversity of your City/Town's staff, and boards and commissions?

As stated above our diversity is our strength. However, the issue of city/town workforce and staff including boards and commission participation is the jurisdiction of local governments.

12a. Do you support a policy where aspiring citizens can serve on boards and commissions? Yes No

13. Racial Gaps In Maternal Mortality Persist. Black mothers die at a rate that's 3.3 times greater than whites, and Native American or Alaskan Native women die at a rate 2.5 times greater than whites, according to a report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Would you work to decrease maternal mortality among women of color, protect reproductive rights and a women's right to choose? Yes No

14. What is at least one specific thing you can do as an elected official to address the needs of LGBTQIA+ people?

Fighting for equal rights and civil protections for LGBTQIA+ Americans is more critical than ever before. We must be visible and vigilant. That is why I have been proudly displaying the Transgender Pride Flag in front of my Congressional office since the beginning of the 116th Congress. I also have previously withheld my support for certain candidates who are opposed to LGBTQIA+ rights, and I will continue to do so.

Throughout my career, I have fought discrimination against the LBGT community by:

- Coauthoring and voting to pass the Equality Act, which prohibits discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation or gender identity.
- As Chair of the Select Revenue Measures Subcommittee of Ways and Means, supporting and voting to pass the PRIDE Act of 2019 which amends the Internal Revenue Code to ensure equal treatment of same sex married couples in the tax code.
- Coauthoring legislation and cosigning multiple legal briefings to repeal the so-called “Defense of Marriage Act,” which was found unconstitutional by the US Supreme Court,
- Leading the successful fight to repeal “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”, and coauthoring legislation to provide immigration, Social Security and Medicare benefits to same-sex couples

15. What specific things will you do to defend immigration and the economy in our your jurisdiction? And would you consider making the jurisdiction you’re running for a Sanctuary Jurisdiction?

Our immigration system is broken and requires comprehensive reform. There are some 11 million undocumented immigrations living in the US today. True comprehensive reform will require Congressional action. Immigrants are a vital part of our community and our country. Immigrants are small business owners, entrepreneurs, students, farm workers, and more. They are our friends and neighbors. It is estimated that undocumented immigrants alone pay more than \$3 billion in state and local taxes in California annually. One study estimated that California would suffer a gross domestic product loss of \$11 billion annually if its estimated 187,972 DACA recipients lost their work authorizations and jobs. I support actual bipartisan compromise bills that create permanent legal status and a clear path to citizenship.

As you may know sanctuary policies are set at the local and State level. As you may know the State of California has passed sanctuary provisions and as your Federal representative, I will do everything in my power to ensure ICE respects and abides by all local and State sanctuary provisions.

16. What will you do combat climate change in your area and promote the green economy?

I firmly believe all people, no matter their socio-economic status, have the right to clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment. That is why I strongly support the Environmental Justice Initiative created by the House Natural Resources Committee. In 2019, the Environmental Justice Initiative formed a first-of-its-kind Environmental Justice Working Group, made up of environmental justice leaders and practitioners to help inform Congress on how to tackle this important issue. This Congress I introduced the Growing Renewable Energy and Efficiency Now (GREEN) Act. This landmark legislation is a comprehensive approach to tackling climate change by using the tax code to extend and expand renewable energy use and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This bill passed the House as part of the Moving Forward Act. Additionally, late last year this initiative hosted the first Congressional Convening on Environmental Justice with over 200 environmental justice leaders. I am also a cosponsor of the Green New Deal. This transformative piece of legislation calls for a transition toward renewable energy, proposes to cut greenhouse gases in half by 2030, and specifically emphasizes the need to prioritize environmental justice for “frontline” communities.