

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

Candidates Name: Jeff Durham

Area/District: Yountville

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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?

As a gay man, born and raised in Napa and fortunate to have returned 15 years ago, my six years on the Yountville Town Council has made me a more informed citizen. My current six years on the Council has given me a better sense of community, both from a policy side and personal interaction. I have a continued opportunity to be an advocate for diversity while participating with all members and aspects of our community. I have held *Office Hours* for over five years as an opportunity for the community to get to know me and voice ideas, feedback and concerns. With the support of the community I would like to continue.

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?

We are a small community. And with that in mind, I have created Office Hours to make sure I am available for all the community to come and meet with me. I have ads in our local paper as well as other sources with my mobile and email for the community to contact me. With Boards and Commissions I have reached out to community members for a positive representation. Walking about town and interacting with our community members is such a positive way to chat and talk about concerns and needs. This is with all members of our community, home owners, renters, business owners, workforce, second home owners, Vets and visitors to our community. And extended family and friends. Of all backgrounds and races. Of course, the Latinx community is a large portion of all of that.

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

Retail Support & Diversity, Continued Safety and Fiscal Responsibility of the Community, Parking. As a member of the Town Council for the past six years I have made these a focus. I am member of the Parking AD Hoc Committee to ensure the

comfort and safety of our residents as well as the compliance of our businesses. Through my work with Use Permits and discussion about allowing other types of businesses in Yountville, I have furthered the discussion for our business community and will continue to do so with a closer look at the Use Permit Process and the involvement of even more businesses. My work during six budget cycles has ensured proper reserves and spending while keeping focused on revenue sources, mostly TOT, to bring the Town to a secure spot for the 2020/2021 budget. I will continue to remain involved with my Ad Hoc Committee for PERs to ensure proper balances for retirement and fiscal stability.

Issues

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? As a hospitality business owner that employs essential workers and members of the Latinx community, I know first hand the concerns of essential workers, even before this current crisis. Working with the current Town Council, we have drafted an ordinance to protect renters from eviction during these times. With our partnership with Napa Housing Authority we have also worked to ensure workforce housing opportunities in our community. As a business owner, I have realized the importance of education, flexibility and communication to help ensure the success of my team. These are vital skills for working with my community as well to support anybody in need.

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 current Council has done a great job, on our Town website, to prepare all the members of our community for a natural disaster.

6. What is your stance on Black Lives Matter? How do you link this movement to the needs of the Latinx community? I believe it is a very pertinent and timely group bringing the attention of many important race issues to the forefront of local, state and national discussion for politics and businesses. They should be at the table as part of any race discussions. As I see it, the BLM has become a broader discussion of all people of color, especially Latinx in a community, like ours, where they make up a vital, larger part of the population.

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? We are in a unique and fortunate situation that in Yountville we have a sergeant and officers that are highly visible and interactive with our community. With a sub station and dedicated officers they have reached out to the community in many different ways. I would consider reducing the police budget to reallocate funds to other departments that may better handle certain job responsibilities or to other programs that may help

address the core issues that may prevent situations before they become too escalated? I believe this is an important discussion to have in all communities.

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....)

Town of Yountville has over 75 units of Workforce Housing, below rate rentals, and deed restricted housing. As a Council we need to ensure that all that housing continues to be provided to those who most would need and benefit from it. We have partnered with Napa Housing Authority and has proved to be very resourceful for us as a Town. At the same time, the Mayor of Yountville has been working diligently with the State and the administration at the Veterans Home to utilize excess land at the Home for housing. I strongly support these actions and this would help to alleviate some of the traffic issues in the area, as well. A win on many levels. The Town is also working with additional land within our Town limits, as a possible purchase, for future workforce housing opportunities. As a Council member I have worked with our Town budget to ensure funding for Parks and Rec programs for day care and after school programs.

9. Do you believe it is the role of elected officials to take policy steps to assure adequate affordable housing? Yes 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 Yountville becomes a community that is more built out we have limited opportunities but there are still opportunities. The Town and the Mayor's work with the State and Vet's Home to claim excess state land can yield opportunities as well as additional land at the north end of Town. As a Council member I supported Measure S for the ballot which has raised \$1M, and continues to fund through TOT, that will be utilized for workforce housing here in Yountville.

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?

Recently, I had a local neighbor come to me. She had moved away and I was surprised to see her at my door. She was so very happy to be back in Yountville and arrived here with no place to live or the resources to make it happen. What an experience it was trying to find resources and opportunities for this person to be in Napa Valley. Trying to

find something, the resources were limited and there were no options available to her. Through a patchwork of contacts we found temporary housing. There needs to be further outreach and resources made available. A lot of it needs to be on the state level as well as mental health issues and support. In my role as a Council member I can continue to discuss it, research it and try to understand more. I have a lot to learn.

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?

The opportunity is to participate more with the NVTA to ensure County wide support.

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?

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

Through my focus on retail diversity for the updates of Use Permits we can ask for deeper business commitment to our community as well as hiring practices. I have actively recruited community members for participation on boards and commissions that are a better representation of Napa Valley as a whole.

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? As a gay man, I can continue to ensure visibility in my community. I am proud to have been responsible for raising the Philadelphia gay flag, representing people of color.

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?

One of my priorities is to ensure the diversity and continued success of our businesses. Need to ensure community involvement and participation with the businesses. I believe a Sanctuary Jurisdiction can help to assist in the safety and life of all our community members. I want to ensure that it also means a financial security as well for those citizens.

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

I have already supported a more extensive plastic ban that is currently in place in Yountville. I am currently working to phase in a gas leaf blower ban. As we move forward with equipment replacement for the Town we need to ensure that the process involves steps for forward looking alternatives.