

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

Candidates Name: __Bernie A. Narvaez__ Area/District: __District 4__

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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?
 - a. **I have learned through my time in the Marine Corps that family and community are the most important anyone should have and be a part of. I am running to make a better Napa for my family and our community. I want to address issues of homelessness and housing affordability to rising cost of living. I am running for Napa City Council to bring my passion, my leadership and a perspective as a father, business owner and my experience in working with people to break down barriers to housing for our working families, and create a more safe and inclusive community.**

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 the President and Board Member of the Napa County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. I have worked to support our Latinx small business community and their employees with resources, support, and communication. I am local business owners serving a majority Latinx client base earning their trust since 2007. As a Mexican immigrant I know first hand the challenges that our community faces everyday, not only in our country but also in Napa. I will bring a representation to our community that has been missing for far too long. Create spaces for POC to feel more comfortable with our local government, that includes appointed more POC to boards and commissions.

3. What are your top three priorities, and how will you ensure that you accomplish those?
 1. **We need to build housing that will be accessible to our working families, young adults. Lowers barriers to housing will prevent multiple families in**

one home, a common occurrence in our Latinx community. By adopting a general plan that will support policies to build more affordable housing.

2. **Help our small business community and workforce recover from the COVID19 crises. Diversify our economy so we are not as vulnerable when the next crises hits by attracting different industry to invest and provide good paying jobs to our community.**
3. **Safe and inclusive community. We live in a diverse community, but many BIPOC do not feel safe or included in the local legislative process. I will help break down some of these barriers to avoid silos and a more inclusive community. Also, language equity is critical, we must be able to provide communication to our Latinx community, not only in Spanish but in a manner that is relevant.**

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?

I have visited several business sites to provide resources and educate essential works to maintain a safe workplace. Also, we need to make sure employers are protecting our essential workers and following guidelines.

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?

- a. **As a Spanish speaker and Latino, I will be able to effectively engage with our Latinx community. Be accessible to provide information, leadership, and host either town halls (virtually/in person)**
- b. **We need to hire a person that can provide multi-language communication and adopt a language equity support such efforts.**

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

A. I support Black Lives Matter and believe in efforts to address racial injustice. The Latinx community faces similar if not the same racial injustice.

B. We will all benefit from changing policies that continue to oppress the BIPOC community.

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 believe we can better train and equip our law enforcement officers with Social worker training. Police are often the first to be contacted and not every engagement is criminal. A comparison is the how Firefighter became EMTs, to save lives. The same approach with social workers can be made with our police department.

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....)

1. **Improve the ADU (granny unit) building process. Create pre-approved plan, streamlined process with dedicated staff, workshops for contractors and create a less intimidating process for our residents. Financing the ADU cost into a new home purchase or during refinancing to provide better terms and a cost-effective process.**
2. **Adopt a general plan that allows higher density residential building on certain corridors.**
3. **Build housing that is affordable for our working families and create a pathway to homeownership**
4. **Support a Parks and Rec department that continues to provide the services to youth and children.**

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?

In leu fees have not effectively helped address our housing issues. An inclusionary housing ordinance is a better way to build affordable housing in new developments. Also, we need to involve our business community in the efforts to house our workers.

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?

- a. **The issues with our unhoused population are very challenging for any local municipality to face. We need to work with State officials to bring more resources and funding. With more people being release from our jails, I have great concerns on housing and mental health issues. I work with Napa County and Regional leaders to find better ways to help our unhoused population.**

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?

a. We need to create safer biking and walking paths. Sidewalks are broken and crosswalks are dangerous. We need to create safer access for our youth and seniors to get around town.

b. I would work with the business community, Napa County, and the wine train to bring means of transportation for our workers.

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?

A. I will proactively encourage and seek member of the BIPOC community to apply and participate on boards and commission. It is important to create spaces in our local government for our marginalized community members.

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

a. This is not just a woman's issue, but it's a human rights issue as well. Politicians should not have a say on what a woman can and cannot do with their body. Unintended pregnancies vary on various factors such as woman's health, family relationships, economic resources, and availability of medical care. Therefore, I support a woman's right to obtain a medically safe and legal abortion. Access to safe medical resources are critical within the BIPOC community if we are to decrease this mortality rate.

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

a. Be clear in my support for our LGBTQIA+ community for a safe and inclusive community. I hear you and see you.

b. Be accessible to discussion and open to learn.

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?

a. I will always support our immigration community, I am an immigrant and come from a mix status family. I am open to supporting a Sanctuary City, but I am concerned that we may be targeted by federal agencies by doing so.

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

1. Adopt a general plan with a Climate Change and environment justice element

2. **Compile inventory of Greenhouse Gas Emission in the City of Napa on a periodic basis**
3. **Create an Urban Forest Specific Plan and establish a tree canopy baseline**
4. **Actively seek State/Federal grants to ensure the sustainability of such programs.**