

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

**Candidates Name: Scott Owens Area/District: Town of Yountville**

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**Party Affiliation: Democrat Campaign ID #: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Campaign Manager: self Contact #: (707) 948-6384**

**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 am ready to serve Yountville's residents and will work hard for a sustainable natural environment through thoughtful decision making, with an ethical, adaptable, and respectful approach to teamwork with Town Council and Staff. I seek to promote Yountville's character and history, achieve balance among residents, businesses, and visitors, and encourage and support a diverse, equitable, and inclusive community. I have lived in Yountville since 2014 and worked in the nonprofit community service sector for 25 years in youth development, supportive housing, community-focused grantmaking, civic engagement, and health advocacy. I proudly represent Yountville as a Commissioner on the Napa County Library Commission. I am a graduate of the University of San Francisco School of Management and of Leadership Napa Valley Class 31. As a commuter on the NVRTA Vine 29, I have gained a broad perspective of Napa County and the surrounding region, as well as a deeper appreciation for the Town of Yountville and its resources. My experience in meeting facilitation, budget management, inter-personal communication, and thoughtful representation have prepared me for this opportunity. I will apply my experience in nonprofit community development and civic engagement as well as involvement in community activities. I seek the Napa County Latinx Democratic club's endorsement and would be proud to carry the endorsement and represent my 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?

My leadership on Latinx issues involves work and decisions with the Napa County Library to ensure that services are offered free of charge for English as a second language as well as citizenship and immigration opportunities in the public space with volunteer efforts for a collective benefit and outcome. I will continue to advocate for and participate in programs, opportunities, and information for a diverse and equitable community.

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

My top three priorities are:

- 1.) Continued health and economic well-being of Yountville's residents during the COVID-19 Pandemic and upcoming fire season. Identify and participate in prevention and support programs for residents.
- 2.) Serve as a link between the residents of Yountville and the business community. It is important to identify issues and opportunities related to residents, businesses, and customers to ensure equitable distribution of resources.
- 3.) Thoughtful planning in housing and transportation in our community.

I will accomplish these by referring to the protocols for public forum and discussion as well as the general plan and existing ordinances to ensure that the proper steps are taken to reach consensus.

## 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 would advocate for and connect community members who are essential workers to resources available in the community to protect their health well-being, including housing, temporary assistance, education opportunities, and grant funding.

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?

I would access available resources and connect with the Latinx leaders in our community: members of the staff at the town of Yountville, as well as Napa County public library, and Office of Emergency Services to assure culturally/language-appropriate communication in a timely manner. The Town of Yountville provides such information currently and links to the Napa County Office of Emergency Services communication systems.

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

I support Black Lives Matter not only because Black lives matter to me, but also because I understand my role in addressing systemic racism and equity in our communities. I am an ally who will speak up to redress inequity and identify microaggressions. Also, Black Lives Matter makes space for transgender brothers and sisters, and a greater understanding of my role in combating inequality to all members

of society makes our society stronger in general. Members of the Latinx community may be identified as people of color, and Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) encounter forms of racism and bias in the 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?

Yountville contracts with the Napa County Sheriff's Department for police service and law enforcement including regular patrols, traffic violations, public disturbances, domestic disputes, and reported thefts. I would support funding for additional training in mental health and human services, to aid contracted law-enforcement to de-escalate situations that may arise involving domestic disputes, public intoxication, and general response calls. I see a benefit in sensitivity and diversity, equity, and inclusion training for Yountville Police and other public-facing staff. Yountville could be a leader in taking steps to educate and inform its law-enforcement and those who interact with the public to de-escalate situations. Yountville will continue to work with the Napa County Sheriff's Departments and its Yountville Police Team to assure its commitment to the "8 Can't Wait" Campaign, which encourages restrictive use of force policies that can reduce police violence and save lives, and identify and monitor training opportunities for the contracted Napa County Sheriff's team to receive additional training in diversity, equity, and inclusion, distinguish among criminal pursuit, health and human services emergencies, and domestic disturbances. I will monitor the police reports delivered quarterly to the Town, and identify opportunities for improvement.

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....)

In order to meet the demands of housing and other services for current residents as well as those who work in the region, policies that encourage the use and development of existing residential zoned parcels, such as multi-family housing in developed areas such as Napa, Angwin, St. Helena, and Yountville, as well as accessory dwelling units, ordinances, and policies in our towns and cities. I commit to accessing and promoting the available funds and parcels in Yountville, which are allocated to housing in the general plan, and in the work with the contracted Housing Authority of the City of Napa to see that these developments happen in the future; this means providing information to our community to understand the needs of those who work here. although housing stock is limited in Yountville, funds are available to promote the housing that exists as well as make this housing accessible to families. I will also promote highlight and share the information available for grants to maintain and improve housing as well as rental assistance. Yountville's General Plan adopted in 2019, identifies corridors that may be developed for mixed use housing/retail.

Affordable housing for Veteran's Home staff, on the VH premises, rehabilitating the older stand-alone homes with Habitat for Humanity may contribute to the affordable housing availability.

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

I do believe it is the role of elected officials to take policy steps to assure affordable housing and yes I support requiring new developments to set aside percentage for affordable housing.

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?

I would support partnerships to expand housing. Tax incentives may encourage developers, business owners, and existing retail establishments to add affordable housing units to future designs. Yes, I would support requiring new commercial developments to set aside a certain percentage of affordable housing

10. According to a report from July 28<sup>th</sup>, 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 can address this issue in by informing myself, my fellow council members, and the Town about the issue and the solutions, which may exist in *supportive housing*, which provides social services within the housing element to help people stay permanently housed and healthy. I think it's important to meet the people where they are find out what the unsheltered person's needs are connect in ways that people trust and provide services to maintain health and housing and integration in the community.

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?

I can help to ensure that transportation meets the needs of youth, working people, families, and seniors by asking our community what their specific individual needs are. The Napa Valley transportation Authority offers a wide range of services to meet those needs, including local, on-demand service, as well as regional regional bus service from Redwood Park and ride in North Napa to the El Cerrito BART station. it's also important to understand the needs of the students at Napa Valley College to ensure that their transportation and education needs are being met (pre-, during, and post COVID-19 shelter in place). I commit to listening as well as providing the resources that are required for success in mobility.

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?

I will work with members of our community to identify those local neighborhood leaders other than the status quo who are available and willing to step up and join town staff, boards and commissions. I will share my own experience in a diverse workforce, and the joy, community connection, and pride that comes with service on a community board such as the library commission or the Citizen advisory committee of Napa Valley Transportation Authority. Of course, I support a policy where aspiring citizens can serve on boards and commissions: teens in park and recreation commission, teens in the library, and our seniors in the community as well are a font or potential connection to service.

12a. Do you support a policy where aspiring citizens can serve on boards and commissions? \_\_\_ Yes!

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

As the executive assistant to the president of the California Health Care Foundation (CHCF), I am aware of the problem, and understand the need for addressing this serious issue of racial gaps in maternal mortality. CHCF invests staff time and grant funding to study, analyze, and listen - most importantly listen - to those impacted by the inequities, and works with Black healthcare providers to redress the issues. I will work to decrease maternal mortality among women of color by informing others of the serious issue and highlighting the conversations and collaborations that work to address a solution.

Yes, I support a woman's right to choose.

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

listen! And connect with the LBTQ connection in Napa, as well as LGBTQIA+ -identified residents. I identify as the G in LGBTQIA+, and it's important to connect with my community members to understand differences (and commonalities) among age, social preferences, and identity in general. Community connection is crucial, and I've found the LGBTQ connection in Napa to be an excellent resource.

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?

I would educate myself about both the opportunities to defend immigration in my jurisdiction as well as provide information to those in need of assistance with immigration in the Town of Yountville and the surrounding unincorporated area. I would consider making the jurisdiction Yountville a sanctuary jurisdiction when residents and those impacted call for my assistance and guidance to do so.

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

I believe that the Town of Yountville has a role in addressing climate change.

As a Yountville Town Council Member, among the many issues, I support policies to continue to replace Town vehicles with electric-powered vehicles, as well as designated parking spots throughout Town with charging stations for visitors.

I would also encourage permeable surfaces in public works projects to allow rainwater flow into the groundwater table, as well as offer (cash) incentives to seek alternatives to and reduce the use of gas-powered leaf blowers in the Town.