

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

Candidates Name: Pierre Washington **Area/District:** American Canyon City Council

Mailing Address: 115 Hallmark Lane, American Canyon, Ca 94503

Contact #: 707-315-3876 **Email:** Pierrewashington1204@yahoo.com

Party Affiliation: Democratic **Campaign ID #:** 1419108

Campaign Manager: Cherylyn Washington **Contact #:** 510-815-5160

Candidate Specific Questions

1. **What qualifications do you have for the office you are running for and why do you deserve the Napa County Latinx Democratic Club's endorsement?** I have a successful background in Public Safety, (*22 years at Richmond Police Department*) where I spent a great portion of my career in Community Policing. I understand how to bridge the gap of city government and the community. I feel I deserve the LatinX endorsement, because I understand the social and economic equalities we deserve as minorities. I will advocate for diversity that resembles our community/residents.

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?** I have been involved with several Latino groups in American Canyon that are speaking out against the inhumane treatment of the Latino families held in unsafe detention facilities by the Mexico border, specifically those surrounding children. I will advocate for affordable housing, to address poor living conditions. I will support a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants and I will support programs that provide proper healthcare.

3. **What are your top three priorities, and how will you ensure that you accomplish those?** My top three priorities are Public Safety, Affordable Housing and Social Equity. I will be able to make a difference right off the start, because I will come to this position with no strings attached. I will be able to speak freely for the people without reservations of offending political leaders that have personal agendas. I will be a sponsor for what is right and best for our community minorities.

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 will advocate for essential benefits for our essential workers. They should have the proper medical, protective gear and supportive means available to perform their tasks.

5. How will you tackle the next upcoming natural and public health disaster and how will this plan actively engage the Latinx Community? In my current role, at Genentech I am the Head of Security and Disaster Preparedness. The key to my success has been to always provide good training, up to date equipment and taking care of the most important asset, the people. **What is your plan to ensure that disaster planning is culturally competent and provides language access?** In our community, there is a large Latino population and if access to language that depicts our disaster is not readily available, from a preparedness standpoint we have already lost the battle. Without the means of proper communication, (*both ways*) that a recipe for disaster in itself.

6. What is your stance on Black Lives Matter? How do you link this movement to the needs of the Latinx community? I agree with BLM movement and I understand exactly what the true purpose behind the movement, especially because I am an African American Male. I connect this movement to all people of color. It is a gap in our society for decades. People just did not want to recognize or acknowledge it. This movement will bring positive change, although we will have to weather the storm and get to a point for honest dialog/discussion.

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. Interesting question, I too am a retired law enforcement officer and have my opinion of “defunding the police” and would like to thank you for rearranging that term to re-appropriating police funding. I feel there are police departments that may need additional oversight of their spending and forming a local residency police finance committee would be a good start. However, before taking money from the police department having a good understanding of where that money goes currently is very important. There are city’s (police departments) that do an excellent job appropriating their budgets for programs like DARE, PAL, Juvenile Crimes, (*that support the victim get through horrific events*), K9 programs, Juvenile justice systems, (*that turn “bad kids” around to be productive citizens*), There’s citizens academy, (*that help residence understand d the rigorous training a police officer goes through and offers ride a longs to see the life of a police officer in real time*). I can go on-and-on about how money is utilized in police departments.

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....). This is my top priority as mentioned in my opening answers. Quality of life and affordable living is a must for our community to survive. We need to provide affordable housing.

9. Do you believe it is the role of elected officials to take policy steps to assure adequate affordable housing? Yes XX 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? Yes, I do believe our developers need to play an active role in providing a good percentage of affordable living/housing.

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? Awareness. People need to stop ignoring this is happening and need to stop "sweeping this problem under the rug." Many times because people do not see the typical homeless scenario, (*the person wrapped up in a blanket pushing a grocery cart, or a blue tarp under a freeway*), we want to say it is not happening in our neighborhood. Well it is... There are families living in cars and in abandon homes, business and paper boxes. Kids attending school and their parents stay up watching over them while they sleep at night. I will bring the homeless crisis to everyone's attention and seek action, not just talk.

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? This touches on several plans that are on the table in most city governments: Reduce traffic, reduce emissions, etc. I think the youth and seniors should be at the forefront of these discussions. I feel Napa Transportation leaders need to meet with all the councils in our county and listen!

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? Holding the City Manager accountable to meet our community diversity needs. Which includes volunteer groups. There are plenty of volunteer groups that have been ran by the same clicky groups not allowing "outsiders' in. This has to be addressed.

12a. Do you support a policy where aspiring citizens can serve on boards and commissions? XX 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? I would promote and create safe spaces/places for the LGBTQ youth to ensure the young people have and feel safe. I want the LGBTQ community to be comfortable enough to be authentic around me. I will stay informed and be a role model for kindness and presence.

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 will always fight to defend our community members and to act on just and humane comprehensive immigration reform. **And would you consider making the jurisdiction you're running for a Sanctuary Jurisdiction?** There are pros and cons to considering a city a "Sanctuary Jurisdiction." I am for ensuring better relationships between undocumented immigrants and law enforcement officials and protecting the 10th Amendment (*separating Federal and State powers*), however I'm also aware that there is an element that sanctuary cities find themselves harboring criminals and creating a dangerous environment for the US citizens.

16. What will you do combat climate change in your area and promote the green economy? Everyone will have to be involved. We need to choose more efficient vehicles for public transportation educate everyone on renewable energy like wind and solar.