

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

**Candidates Name: \_Sen. Bill Dodd**

**Area/District: SD3**

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**Party Affiliation: Democrat**

**Campaign ID #: FPPC ID#1392482**

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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?

I have served in the California State Legislature for the past 6 years, the last 4 in the Senate. Previously, I spent 14 years on the Napa County Board of Supervisors. During my time in public service, I believe I have shown myself to be a thoughtful, responsive and effective representative. I would be honored to have the endorsement of the Napa County Latinx Democratic Club.

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 worked on advancing numerous Latinx issues from increasing funding for farmworker housing here in Napa County, to restricting contracts and cooperation of local law enforcement on immigration matters, to supporting greater educational resources to help close the racial disparity in outcomes. I always have an open door and will ensure Latinx and other communities of color can reach me, so I can learn and do my part to help address issues that arise.

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

Going into 2021, my three top goals are: addressing housing and homelessness, improving disaster preparedness and response, and combatting pollution, especially from plastics. I will be working with stakeholders and legislators from across the state to address these challenges and more.

## 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?

We need to ensure essential workers have the PPE and support they need. It's also critical that we push community level safeguards because the more reckless the general public is, the more our essential workers are put at risk in the course of their jobs.

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've supported laws requiring language access to disaster information and I will work to ensure it's implemented. I've worked very hard over the last several years, authoring over a dozen new laws, to ensure we're better prepared to prevent disasters and mitigate them when they do occur.

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

Simply put, Black Lives Matter. We all need to not only say it, but reflect it in our actions. This year I coauthored legislation to require independent investigations of fatal police shootings, ban chokeholds, and improve media access to protests, and I voted to allow the voters to restore affirmative action and to create a state commission on reparations. The Latinx community also faces many overlapping problems with the treatment in our criminal justice system and in the resources and opportunities available, so we must address those as well.

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?

Clearly the current model of policing is not working in many communities. We need to invest in non-police interventions where appropriate. Social workers and community resource specialists could often better respond to certain situations to resolve root causes and avoid escalation. I am supportive of such initiatives moving forward.

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....)

The lack of affordable housing to accommodate our residents and workforce drives many of the problems we face. I have encouraged the development of workforce housing in Napa County, including on state property at the Yountville Veterans Home. I will continue pushing for this to come to fruition. Additionally, we generally need to make it easier to build more units. I've supported policies to streamline permitting and allow accessory dwelling units to be built by right.

9. Do you believe it is the role of elected officials to take policy steps to assure adequate affordable housing? Yes.

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 have voted for policies that limit rent increases. However, the most important thing we can do is improve housing production. We need to make it quicker, easier and more affordable to build housing in California, especially infill housing and transit oriented developments.

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?

Homelessness is one of California's foremost challenges. I have worked with the Governor and legislative leaders to push for increased funding and common sense policy changes. Project HomeKey is an important step, which will help house thousands of Californians. However, there is much more we need to do, and I am committed to being part of the solution.

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?

Transportation is one of the great challenges facing our communities, especially here in Napa County where we get an influx of workers and tourists on a daily basis. I've been actively engaged in our transportation issues for 20 years, since I was on the Board of Supervisors. In the Legislature, I have helped secure critical funding for transportation and transit improvement projects here locally.

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?

Diversity makes us stronger. It's a key ingredient to California's success. I believe local boards and commissions – and those at the state level – should reflect the great diversity of our state. I support greater outreach to underserved communities, so we can improve recruitment.

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. In fact, I authored SB 1237 this year to improve health outcomes for mothers and infants, especially for communities of color. The bill passed the legislature and would expand access to certified nurse midwives to underserved communities.

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

California has been a leader in the fight for LGBTQIA+ rights, and I have been able to support numerous new policies. Just last month, I voted for legislation to expand healthcare services to transgender Californians to bridge the gap in care, including mental health. I will continue working to ensure everyone regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation is treated fairly and given the opportunity to succeed.

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 voted for Senator Kevin de León's SB 54 in 2017 to enact the nation's strictest restrictions on the sharing of immigration information with law enforcement. The bill has been recognized for establishing a sanctuary state here in California. I have supported numerous other policies to support immigrants and will continue to do so. Immigrants make our communities what they are and are integral to our success.

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

I have worked hard over the last 6 years in the California State Legislature to fight climate change and promote green jobs. I coauthored SB 100, which committed California to achieving 100% carbon-free power by 2045. I will continue supporting policies that reduce GHG emissions and support the growth of the green economy.