

Napa County Latinx Democratic Club

Candidate Questionnaire

DEADLINE FOR RETURN: September 4, 2020

Candidates Name: Jason Kishineff Area/District: American Canyon
Mailing Address: 2555 Flosden Rd. #50, American Canyon, CA, 94503
Contact #: 707-501-7113 Email: BLUEBASILISK@AOL.COM
Party Affiliation: Democrat Campaign ID #: _____
Campaign Manager: Self Contact #: _____

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 an activist who has been involved in racial justice and environmental issues for a few years, including marching for immigrant rights in Napa and in Santa Rosa. I am a founding member of the Napa County Progressive Alliance and a member of Napa Climate Now.

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've run for Congress twice to try to transform the whole system into a system based on justice - a livable wage, Medicare For All, tuition-free college. I've been fighting against police violence issues, especially in Vallejo, but also lobbied for AB392 in Sacramento. I am also a big proponent

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

- 1) Bring back the American Canyon farmers' market, which was always held back by terrible location. I'll put it right on the highway.
- 2) I will seek to make business permits for locals cheaper and streamline the process. I will also add a preference for locally owned business to the General Plan.
- 3) I want to end the ban on recreational cannabis dispensaries in American Canyon. If I and Pierre win, we should have the votes to do so.

of ending US imperialism in Central and South America.

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?

For starters, I think mask enforcement is lax. Places that are not respecting mask requirements need to be fined. I think we can prohibit workers testing positive from being fired from their job, but I also think that we can require larger businesses to provide paid sick leave.

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?

Without knowing what that disaster will be, all I can say is that I will be Johnny-On-The-Spot whenever I'm needed with whatever is needed. Disaster planning, alerts and warnings and updates ALL need to be in English & Spanish. There's no excuse for them not to be.

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

I am a black lives activist - marching, protesting, speaking at City Council meeting against abusive police practices in Vallejo. I know that Latino lives are also targeted by systemic police abuse, particularly in places like Bakersfield, which led CA in police killings the last time I checked. I have personally been treated with suspicion by a Napa police officer because he thought I was Latina (I have darker skin than many Caucasians).

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 think this makes a lot of sense in cities with very abusive PD's like Vallejo or Portland or Chicago. I prefer to think of reimagining policing, transforming the policing system. But the reality in American Canyon is that our city is very happy with our police department. I've never heard of abuse here, although it most happen. De-funding would simply never fly here. So I think it should be up to residents of individual cities. In Vallejo, there is a huge amount of abuse and the VPD gets 46% of the budget, so it makes perfect sense there.

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 American Canyon, I'm looking at the other end of this. Council keeps approving housing developments but there aren't many jobs. My campaign is prioritizing local business, so that people can live where they work, and prioritizing community gathering places and health, for just the reasons mentioned in this question.

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?

I think that all housing needs to be affordable housing at this point and going forward. We need to take care of the poorest among us first, and endless development means eroding the natural environment, edging us toward climate crisis.

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?

I think American Canyon should be setting aside some property for a homeless shelter. We should absolutely be taking care of our own. I know we have some folks sleeping by the creek on the west end of town. That's not okay. I mean, it is if that's really what they prefer. ~~That~~ That happens. But I believe that housing should be considered a human right.

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've touched on locally owned business in regards to traffic. We can also support the Napa Valley Transit Authority, which I think we do a good job of. But, and this is admittedly outside of my purview, I've been advocating for a 4 county rail system, and I can still advocate

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?

American Canyon, I believe, is the most diverse city in the county. I ~~really~~ really don't think any steps are needed. The government's hiring process isn't changeable on a local level. As far as commissions, staying fair of course, I see prioritizing those

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

~~Absolutely~~ Absolutely. A resident is a resident. I don't care about anyone's citizenship or immigration status.

who have low income ideals, regardless of race.

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

Or at least I would have if voters had elected me to Congress. At City Council level, I'm not sure how I can affect this, but my door will always be open for anyone (even non American Canyon residents) who need help. We are all one.

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

During Pride Month

In 2019 I advocated for Pride Flags to be flown on all government offices, along with a number of LGBTQ activists / friends, including American Canyon, Napa, St. Helena and Napa County. This year, we had planned to seek Pride flags flown in the schools, we didn't get to because of covid 19, but we'll definitely be doing that. Over 40% of LGBTQ attempt suicide at some point. Flags show inclusion.

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 believe American Canyon is already a sanctuary city, but if not, then yes. I will do anything that is necessary to block or mislead fascists seeking to oppress and remove my neighbors, including physically standing in their way, if necessary.

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

I think when any new buildings are approved, they should be held to the highest possible standards. For instance, currently new housing is required to have 15% of roof space set aside for solar panels, but are not required to actually HAVE solar panels - just roof space. I made this suggestion when the Council was approving the Watson Branch project, which will add 1200 new homes to our city. Fortunately, the Council listened and asked the developer about it, and he agreed.