

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

**Candidates Name:**     Renee Cazares     **Area/District:**  
4

**Mailing Address:**   P  .O Box 3432 Napa, CA  
94559

**Contact #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Party Affiliation:**   Democrat since 1984   **Campaign ID #:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Campaign Manager:**   None   **Contact #:**   707-339 -9905    
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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 am lifelong democrat I have always fought for those marginalized and disenfranchised, and with my babies in my hands marched against Proposition 187 against Pete Wilson's law which would prevent people who did not have US documentation (even a birth certificate would be allowed to be asked for at traffic stops) risk of deportations, refusal to allow children into schools and denial of medical care. I will continue to keep awareness for the issues that face our Latinx community of income inequality , safety concerns and protecting the vulnerable people withing our Latinx including. Making sure we vote for elected officials who understand these concerns is paramount.
2. Beyond raising our Children, whose Father is Mexican, and helping them navigate through an often unkind world, owning a restaurant were a majority of our staff is of Mexican or Latinx decent, I have no formal leadership roles. I have mentored young people who have never had jobs before, go on to do great things, and feel valued and appreciated.
  
3. What are your top three priorities, and how will you ensure that you accomplish those?  
1.I would like to work on a more inclusive City Hall. I would like Childcare offered at City Hall meetings. Many of us who live in Napa have partners who work in the hospitality industry and this means working nights, and longs shifts, and no one able to stay home to watch their children during 6pm meetings. 2. Traffic. I believe we need more money placed from our General fund into funding traffic problems throughout our City. I believe this area is poorly

funded but with our growing population, we need more spent in traffic calming methods. 3. Campaign finance reform by setting limits on donations from large corporations and grants to people who run grassroots campaigns in our Community.

### **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 checked in with all my employees to understand their needs during this time, and have made sure that they are doing okay in whatever ways, we have picked up insurance for spouses who have lost their jobs or added money to paychecks. I would prefer all people who are working in high risk jobs to receive hazard pay or be able to stay home if possible until the pandemic is over. Also I believe in helping employees with college books and tuition as well as any fees associated with the DACA renewal process.

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? We can always improve on anything . We need more people in the field who speak Spanish to people able to work the hotlines during crisis. As a member of COAD I understand we need people on the ground to assist and inform non English speaking people in our community quickly and comforting. Also, we need more volunteers in general, and even people who can deliver food to homes where people can not travel is important, and this just takes willing people who care.

6. What is your stance on Black Lives Matter? How do you link this movement to the needs of the Latinx community? Black Lives Matter can be linked to any community that has the risk of being marginalized. In Napa Valley, BLM would definitely encompass the treatment of our essential workers tied to the hospitality industry, who need better housing and health insurance. I believe all grape growers in our Valley should be required to cover their workers health insurance or be penalized.

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 this means making sure money goes toward training and oversight. We need to make sure that our police department has the funds to properly train their staff in cultural and ethnic awareness, de escalation techniques, and have measures in place to oversee that the police force is in full compliance in proper treatment of suspects while out in the field.

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....) I would love to have a Napa where our children can live and work here. I do not have all the answers to

that, as this has been a topic for a long time. One would be to simplify the permitting process for granny units, in laws apartments, (also known as ADU's) by making this affordable for all people. Granny Units can also help keep homeowners in their homes by helping with the mortgage. Granny units are expensive and we need to make them much more affordable for the average person in terms of the expense and streamlining of permits. I would also question the need to build as many Hotels as we want to and the money place in this in the form of housing, and land used for more hotel workers instead of our residents who already work and live here. I would also look at areas of how we can free up inventory by encouraging property owners to rent to average people, and how we can address the ever increasing amount of homeowners using their properties for second home people. Again, I do not believe we have a problem and we need a City Councilmember who truly cares about this and I believe I am that person.

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? I do not think developments should be so large that we need to create housing specifically for the workforce.

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 have a lot of ideas, and would like to work with community leaders in this area to pinpoint areas of families without homes due to economic crises, as well as single people, those with drug addiction and chronic homelessness, and those who have mental health problems.

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 have used our bus system and it is often late, slow and uncomfortable. I believe we should invest in light rail for people who commute to work in Upvalley and I really do not understand why as (during good times financially) we can not afford this? Also I would like to keep Napa youth friendly and make sure our skate park stays in downtown, a lot of young people do not have the money to commute to Kennedy Park. W

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 committees. Public outreach by getting information to areas where the Latinx community will congregate, such as Churches and Markets: two places I can think of is St.

John's Catholic Church and La Morenita Market. We can make sure we post Napa City Council agenda's committee open jobs etc in these locations. Again, free chil care at City Hall would be of great help as well. Also it would be great to have some staff, board and committee jobs available to high school and college interns.

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

14. What is at least one specific thing you can do as an elected official to address the needs of LGBTQIA+ people? Flying flags is one thing, but education is another, and I would like to embrace the entire month of June to Public awareness and advocacy for our LGBTQ Community in the form of educational classes for our public. As City Councilwoman, I would like to fly the Pflag as well as the Pride Flag for the Month of June each year. As Citywoman I would like to be a person that our LGBTQ community feels comfortable and accepted at all times.

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 California is already a Sanctuary State but we can strengthen that further in the City of Napa by making sure our Police Department does not work in the role of immigration or with ICE in any way.

16. What will you do combat climate change in your area and promote the green economy? Anyway to work toward decreasing our carbon footprint is a powerful thing. We need to make sure we slow down on development of new hotels, we need to make sure to maintain more open space, and work with our residences and businesses on better choices for recycling and composting. I believe we have a strong role as leaders to encourage the end of plastic in our daily lives.