

**Napa County Latinx Democratic Club
Candidate Questionnaire
DEADLINE FOR RETURN: August 26, 2020**

Candidates Name: Irais Lopez-Ortega **Area/District:** Calistoga City Council

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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 been appointed as Council Member for 8 years. So during this years I have being getting experience and knowledge about the work a Council Member should. do. I'm the fist and only Latina women to be a Council Member in Napa Valley.

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?

Few years ago I founded Casa de La Cultura, because Latino Mothers did have the issue that their kids have no after school activities. As a Elected official I am and also have being encouraged Latino women's to get trained, to learn how to approach our different authorities, how to reach out to the school boards, encouraged them to participate more and engage in the decision that take place.

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

Latino Representation. Encouraging specific the Latino community to participate more by taking advantage of all the leadership training that different organizations provide. and teach them what I have learn.

Use the TOT and available resources that the tourist and visitors to the different resorts bring to Calistoga to improve the quality of life of our residents.

Promote the spirit of a community where all the different social groups can live and work together no matter what our background is. ISSUES.

4. =List your key endorsements and supporters.

Issues

5. 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?

what I do with my employees is to provide them with the right Protective equipment to be sure they do their work in a safe and comfortable conditions. this is something that we all the Latino leaders should promote no only at our work site but also to others. educate our essential worker or how to use these protective equipment as well.

6. 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?

At the moment we have experienced natural disasters as the fires that create PSPS in Calistoga a lot. So, to tackle that is very important that our Latino community get subscribe to Nyxle and to the alerts that City and County send. Also show them how to be prepared for emergencies.

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

My stance on Black Lives Matter is that it's time to address the systemic problem in this country. We are living in a time where we can see that the more it's no address and changes are made we will continue to see violence against African Americans get worse. I believe that it relates to the Latino Movement in great part because our black and brown communities are those mainly targeted. however, I believe in doing it in a non-violent way. seeing the riots across the nation saddens me. I think we need better policies to address these issues and hold officers accountable. also I believe in better training for our officers to deescalate situations. for example when people are having mental health crisis.

8. 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 don't believe defunding the police is the answer. rather I believe in revising the budget to better train and promote programs for our youth, create more trust in the community and prevent excessive force by our officers. fortunately in Calistoga the relations between the City, residents and the Police department is very open and we have

good programs in place. We have a very diverse police department that represents all the social groups here. The police dept. already follows the guidelines from different organizations like [#8canwait.org](#). And in effort to be transparent all the policies that the department follows are in the police dept. website.

9. 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...)

Unfortunately this is a problem that occurs not only in our county but all over the state. Jobs that pay reasonable salaries to cover the needs of a family, not necessarily enough to cover housing, so families and people look for a place that can afford, therefore long hrs of commute are necessary for many. With my role as a council member I want to be sure that we follow the guidelines that the state provides to us to increase affordable housing in Calistoga, but taking in considerations what we can accommodate and be sure we have the infrastructure to do so.

We do have to have enough public services, like water, recreational programs etc..

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

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?

Comments:

Yes, as an elected official we do have the obligation to be sure that we comply with the State regulations about enough housing for all sectors in our community.

A personally suggest that each new project that comes to the city it should provide some type of housing for the residents and work-force in town.

11. 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?

Homelessness is a very serious problem for all of us, even though Calistoga has no major problems, but we can see the situation is

changing. I think the best for a City like us is to implement a program or plan on place before it will became impossible to solve. again lots of factors make the problems worse. Housing, unemployment, etc..

12. 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?

We need to educate our community about the transportation services that are available in our towns, few years ago, because the lack of use of these resources some bus routes were cancelled in Calistoga. Calistoga is to far away from everything that most people like to use private transportation.

13. 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?

Because Calistoga is a resort and tourist town, we already have a diversity in our work force, but regarding boards and commissions we for sure need more participation from the members of our community.

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

Yes, definitely, I think that as soon you become a resident of a community you should participate in the decision that take place at different levels.

14. Do you support a woman's right to obtain medical services, including legal abortions?

Yes x No ___

Comments/Expand: Yes, true education, information etc.. I think every women deserves the right to medical affordable care, and each one has the right to decide for their selfs.

Reproductive justice is a deep concern to communities of color, do you believe it is a women's right to choose and to have control over her own body? Do you believe more services to prevent black women and women of color... what policies would you pursue toMaternal Mortality.

15. What is at least one specific thing you can do as an elected official to address the needs of LGBTQIA+ people? EDUCATION. I thing educate, educate, educate, is very important, so all of us will be more open to accept, work and live together with theLGBTQIA+ community, every single human be has the same rights as every body else.

16. 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? Promote among all the persons that are eligible to became legal residents to due as soon is possible, sometimes lack of resources is the problem, so find out how they can have access to the programs that give assistance for this purpose. We immigrants have a very important part on the economy of this country so definitely we need to encourage this. I will be in support to declare our town As a sanctuary Jurisdiction for sure.

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

Implement and promote programs in our town that will deduce contamination, like recycling, saving energy, etc..