

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

Candidates Name: __Leon García_____ **Area/District:** _City of American Canyon_____

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Party Affiliation: __Democratic_____

Campaign ID #: _1290212_____

Campaign Manager: __self_____

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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 as Mayor of the City of American Canyon for 14 years. During this time I have actively engaged in many aspects of community life that includes family support organizations, faith communities, immigration issues, local schools, workforce housing and advocacy on issues of inclusion and equity.

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?

Most recently I work with all the Napa County mayors and the Board of Supervisors to pass an ordinance for tenant protection for renters who are facing eviction due to loss of income related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

I reach out to leaders and individuals in communities of POC and Latinx to inform and discuss issues to build support for issues that have a bearing on their lives. For example, food access for families and communication in disasters for Spanish and Tagalog speakers.

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

Issues

Assure that individuals and families in need have access to services to support their basic needs and wellbeing.

Work together in consensus in applying common standards for a safe and inclusive community.

Generate a business climate that attracts a sustainable economy with the energy of creativity and innovation..

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?

Assure that they have all the necessary personal protective equipment. Establish a communication network, language appropriate, for timely information relative to health and safety. Provide child care options for families returning to work by collaborating with employers, providers and local government.

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 am an active member of Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD) the committee I serve on developed a communication plan in Spanish and Tagalog for the Napa County Office of Emergency Service for use in disasters. I also serve on the Disaster Preparedness Committee developing training programs for the community that is language appropriate.

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 is important to people of American Canyon. All the more so in that it reflects the members of many of our families. American Canyon families have personal ties that embrace inclusion of race and ethnicity, thirty-eight languages are spoken and every major faith in the world is present.

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?

We have a very approachable police officers that implement community policing policy. This includes school resource officers, meeting with community groups and Neighborhood watch. I recently met with eight pastors from local faith communities and our chief of police and the county undersheriff to identify and discuss local issues. The discussion supported the performance of the police officers. The chief of police and the undersheriff both gave their cell phone numbers and told everyone to call them regarding any problem. I support continued funding of our police department as delineated on our contract.

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...)

American Canyon requires developers to reach agreement with the city on affordability of houses built. Housing in the city's central core is a Planned Development Area that is mixed use of retail and higher density housing near transit facilities. Single family homes are required to meet sustainability objectives in reduced energy consumption and water conservation.

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?

Require local government to comply with housing allocations determined by California Housing and Community Development's (HCD) Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA). A city's RHNA allocation is established through a process of the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG). The organization is made up of all nine bay area counties including 101 cities. The next cycle is underway. The state legislature is stepping up on enforcement due to lack of compliance. American Canyon works with developers to attain our RHNA goals and has made significant progress.

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?

Assure safe shelter is available. Currently hotels serve as temporary housing due to pandemic health concerns. Transition to permanent housing. Establish navigation centers to evaluate and support individual needs. The Hope Center that was in Napa is an example. Make full use of all resources to fund services.

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 serve as a director on the Napa Valley Transportation Authority. There are programs that reduce fares for youth and seniors. Transit priority gives buses priority through intersections. Transit facilities built close to work and residence. Both of these are engineering models that are in planning process for development. They would benefit commuters and reduce traffic congestion. Proprietary transit such as ride sharing is also in consideration for workforce commuters.

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?

Recruitment that reaches out to underrepresented groups. Offer internship to students. The Citizens Academy is open to all residents and presents an overview of city operations. It has been very successful.

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?

Advocate for nondiscrimination protections at local, county and state levels. This includes such issues as housing, employment, and parenting. Engage in an ongoing dialog on issues.

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 have participated with a community group that consisted of representatives from public safety officials, immigrant legal advocates and family supports organizations. Given the anti-immigrant climate in the national leadership the course taken by jurisdictions in Napa County functions within the legal parameters of the regulations in support of immigrants regardless of status and avoids unwanted external interdiction by declaring sanctuary jurisdictions.

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

New housing construction is required to standards that reduce carbon energy consumption and conserve water. As an example, a new apartment project reduced potable water consumption by using recycled water for all toilets. All toilets are flushed with recycle water.