

**CDP CHAIR CANDIDATE QUESTIONS  
RIVERSIDE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

1. Do you support the Green New Deal, including its job guarantee?

**The investments in clean energy jobs the Green New Deal proposes will be nothing less than a modern version of the Works Progress Administration, or WPA – an agency of FDR’s New Deal - which put 8.5 million Americans to work and pulled the nation out of the Great Depression. The scope of the program proposals surpass anything to date and if implemented, will transform both the economy and environment “in ways that achieve sustainability, equity, justice, freedom, and happiness.”**

**What’s more and even better, attacking the crisis of climate change within the framework of a massive infrastructure and jobs program will benefit low-income neighborhoods, rural, indigenous, and communities of color (which are hit hardest by pollution historically to present day, and are still neglected when it comes to redressing the harm done to their communities).**

**As a Black woman raising kids in the diverse working class community of Richmond and seeing the attempts by fossil fuel corporations to establish a presence that would be harmful to residents, I am all too aware of the way some communities pay the expense for corporate greed. Of course, it’s the children who pay the highest price.**

**Without having yet read all of the report, I am a believer in the aim of the Green New Deal (GND), which calls for a reduction of U.S. carbon emissions in line with the Paris Agreement’s goal of preventing global warming beyond 2.7 degrees by**

**2100. According to the group Data for Progress, the GND could generate up to 10 million new jobs. By resolving to cut our carbon output in half by 2030, the plan could generate union jobs in the new economy, retrofitting or building new infrastructure, establishing modes of manufacturing based on sustainability, a military that's directed away from wasteful and environmentally harmful wars and aggression to..... literally, saving the planet and with it, our neighborhoods. The GND's progressive energy agenda and plan could be the vehicle to transition to a 21st century economy based on principles of equity and justice.**

2. How many conventions have you been to?

**10**

3. What are the salaries of the top 3 CDP officials?

**The Chair is the only officer who has a salary which per the bylaws, is the same as the Assembly Speaker. The salaries of the party staff are determined by the Chair. I do not know what the salaries of staff were under Chair Bauman, nor do I know what they are now, under interim-Chair Rooker.**

4. What if any solution do you have regarding the homeless epidemic?

**We are living in the fifth largest and arguably one of the most robust and productive economies in the world. And yet, the streets of our cities, the byways of towns and freeway underpasses, are the only homes hundreds of thousands Californians have. Subsidized lunch and breakfast during the**

**week cannot provide enough nourishment for children to be active, to grow and to learn.**

**While hunger, illness, and homelessness are the consequences of income inequality and neoliberal policies, we cannot leave it there. We must consider the individual lives that are shaped and misshaped by those circumstances. We cannot leave human beings behind while we focus on health care, income equality, and corporate overreach to the exclusion of those in immediate need. We must insist that programs are available – housing, health care, food, childcare, transportation subsidies – and expanded. Even after the change-making “Housing First” bill is incorporated by July of this year (author State Senator Holly Mitchell, L.A.), such services will be essential to changing the fortunes for this vulnerable population.**

**We must push back against municipal codes that criminalize poverty, turning homeless individuals into fugitives who must dodge police while they seek a night’s rest in our urban centers or rural hideaways. We must open our municipal buildings which are often empty more hours than they are in use to provide shelter, especially in extreme weather.**

**While yes, while we must take care of immediate needs much better than we are, we still have to look to reforms of the Ellis Act to extend eviction notices, and work for the repeal of the Costa-Hawkins Act, so local municipalities can enact rent control as neighborhoods demand. In addition, we have to go beyond the Fight for \$15 and insist on living wages so that we don’t have to choose between rent and food. The same goes healthcare – we must have Medicare for All. The number one cause of bankruptcy and homelessness is still due to healthcare costs.**

5. How do you feel about reparations?

**The moral case for reparations has as a solid foundation, centuries of exploitation, cruelty, and the denial of benefits and economic advantages white Americans have always counted on. The damage slavery has caused to the African-American community has never been fully addressed, nor atoned for.**

**Even during the New Deal, housing and labor policies systematically excluded black people from subsidized housing meant to pull families out of poverty. As former Ohio State Senator Nina Turner has stated, “We cannot deny that African Americans suffer in this country disproportionately in all areas, whether it's economic, social, political, physical, because of white supremacy.”**

**While black people’s oppression has been in part facilitated by economic marginalization and the denial of opportunities – allowing for institutional white supremacy to dominate our society, the path to racial justice is also partly intertwined with economic justice. Programs which uplift the poor, such as the fight for a living wage, Medicare for All and the Green New Deal – based on a call for racial justice - would have the most noticeable effect on black families because as a people they have suffered disproportionately.**

**And because economic justice won’t solve all of the toxic effects of white supremacy and racism (mass incarceration, housing and school discrimination), I support Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee’s bill, H.R. 40, the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African-Americans Act. It calls on the federal government to study the issue of reparations and “address the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery in the United States and the 13 American**

**colonies between 1619 and 1865 and to establish a commission to study and consider a national apology and proposal for reparations for the institution of slavery, its subsequent de jure and de facto racial and economic discrimination against African-Americans, and the impact of these forces on living African-Americans, to make recommendations to the Congress on appropriate remedies, and for other purposes.”**

**The history of Native Americans suffering genocide, displacement and broken treaties have resulted in appalling levels of inequality and systemic injustice in First Nation communities and must also addressed and atoned for – that is another issue that we must also face.**