



Where Do the Marin County 2018 Candidates Stand on Senior Issues?

Marin County voters have some very important choices to make for the upcoming election on November 6th. With two candidates running for each of 3 state and county races, the North Bay chapter of the California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) developed a list of questions that were sent to each candidate so that we could learn more about their positions and policies on key issues impacting seniors. With the senior population growing more rapidly than any other demographic group in Marin County, we want to be sure that we elect representatives who will best address the issues our county is facing.

Background on CARA and the Questionnaire

CARA is California's largest grassroots senior advocacy organization, representing over 1,000,000 seniors from 260 affiliated organizations around the state. CARA works on issues that are voted on every year at our Convention, and we do this through our legislative committee, board of directors, and most importantly, through our local chapters called **CARA Action Teams (CATs)**. The Marin CAT meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at the Northgate community room (2nd floor above the food court next to the movie theaters) from 1pm -3pm.

Members of the Marin CAT developed the questions that were sent to all 6 of the candidates running for state and county races that are up for election. 5 of the 6 candidates returned the questionnaires. The CAT members then "rated" the answers on a 0-5 scale based on their responses and how they matched with CARA's policies and principles. Here's how the ratings work:

5-Bulls Eye-right on; 4-Almost there; 3-Fair; 2-Misses by a mile; 1-Not even close; 0-Did not submit

The questions we asked are listed below. There is not enough space to list all of the answers provided by each candidate, but we have listed the ratings that CARA gave each Supervisor. If you would like to read the complete responses from the candidates or if you have any questions or comments about this questionnaire, or CARA, please contact Kris Organ, kris@civilrightsca.com, or Ruth Carter, raggcm@comcast.net.

Questions for Statewide Candidates:

1. What are your three top legislative priorities? Why are they important to seniors? What actions would be required?
2. Do you support moving state resources from long-term care that is provided primarily in nursing homes - to community-based services, such as increased funding for home care, home delivered meal programs, increased paratransit services, etc.? How would you actively support this change in funding policy at the state level? What kind of citizen support do you need to accomplish this?
3. Many of California's transit dollars go to road work and car-oriented programs. Many of our state's older and disabled residents can no longer drive and depend on public and paratransit services to get around.
 - a. Do you support increasing the budget for transportation services for seniors and the disabled?
 - b. Do you support the state adopting a policy that reduces ZERO pedestrian deaths by 2020 (known as VISION ZERO)?
 - c. What would you do to move these and any other transportation policies forward?
4. Millions of Californians are without access to quality health care. Seniors and others are forced into insurance schemes and managed care plans that have huge premiums, deductibles and co-pays while limiting access to providers.
 - a. Do you support the California Legislature taking a deep look into the economics of a single-payer system, debating the merits, and voting on what is currently known as the Healthy California Act.
5. Our state is facing a housing crisis. In our cities and counties, we see many more homeless people – seniors, families, VETs, etc. The housing being built is for the very wealthy and long time residents are being forced out of their homes, apartments, mobile homes, etc.
 - a. What will you do to increase the protection of renters so that they can stay in their homes without fear of increasing rents or eviction?

- b. What will you do to help older homeowners pay for essential repairs and to make their houses more accessible as they age?
 - c. Will you support efforts to increase state funding to build truly affordable housing (rental and homeownership) for the low income residents of our state?
6. Even though the state has seen a growing budget surplus over the last several years due to an improved economy and new, fair taxes for the wealthy, very little of the surplus has gone to programs that serve seniors and people with disabilities – the fastest growing part of our state’s population.
- a. Will you support increased funding for senior services such as In Home Supportive Services, case management services, food programs, Alzheimer’s centers, adult day health programs, etc.?
 - b. Will you support increasing the base grant for SSI/SSP and reinstating the COLA for SSI recipients?
7. After many years of work by the disability community to implement the Supreme Court’s decision in Olmstead v. L.C. (1999) so people can live in their communities rather than institutions, we now face a backlash from advocates of institutionalization.
- a. Where do you stand on this issue?
 - b. How would you invest in long-term care supports and services, workforce development, and housing to expand opportunities and resources for self-directed community-based living?
 - c. What legislation would you advocate for to provide adequate revenue to fund these investments?
8. What are the biggest environmental issues facing your district?
9. Public pensions have been accused of being “budget busters” by many local and state governments and elected officials. Do you support efforts to protect public and private pensions, as well as offering opportunities for workers who do not have pensions to participate in a voluntary state-sponsored program?

Questions for Marin DA Candidates:

1. What are your priorities for the DA office? Why are they important to seniors?
2. Please describe your public service record on senior and disability issues.
3. Californians who reach age 65 are considered a “protected party.” This has significance for seniors because, not only do they have protection from many cases of abuse, but that protection comes with more severe penalties for those guilty of the abuse. What will you do when in office to protect seniors and those with disabilities from abuse and neglect?
4. Senior citizens’ and those with disabilities’ lives are affected by many federal, state and local laws and regulations. Many depend on the government for such things as housing, basic income and health care. Many find it confusing dealing with government agencies. What will you do to support seniors’ legal rights?
5. There’s much talk about the problem of protecting children from bullying at school, online and in the workplace, but seniors and the disabled are also vulnerable populations. If an older/disabled person is being harassed (“elder bullying”), what will you do to address and alleviate this issue?
6. Some seniors and those with disabilities live in nursing homes or residential care facilities. What will you do to support their rights in these environments?
7. In Marin County, there are seniors and those who are disabled people who are also undocumented immigrants. What are your thoughts about protecting them from being separated from their families?
8. What is your position on the death penalty?

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Candidate Scores

5-Bulls Eye-right on; 4-Almost there; 3-Fair; 2-Misses by a mile; 1-Not even close; 0-Did not submit;
% of possible high score

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	TOTAL	%
DISTRICT ATTORNEY											
LORI FRUGOLI	3.8	4.3	4.3	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.3	4.0	n/a	32.3	81%
ANNA PLETCHER	4.5	4.6	4.8	5.0	4.8	4.9	4.9	5.0	n/a	38.4	96%
STATE SENATE											
VERONICA JACOBI	4.1	4.1	4.0	4.3	4.1	4.3	4.3	3.8	4.3	37.1	83%
MIKE MCGUIRE	4.4	4.4	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.8	4.8	4.5	4.6	41.5	92%
STATE ASSEMBLY											
MARC LEVINE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0%
DAN MONTE	4.4	4.8	4.8	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.8	41.6	93%