

## CA Senate Nomination Questionnaire

For **Part 1**, please answer Yes, No, or Other to each question, **and** provide an explanation of your position. For **Part 2**, please answer Yes or No, **if No**, please provide a brief explanation. This questionnaire should take no more than 45 minutes.

The answers given in this questionnaire will be used by Food & Water Action, Ground Game LA, POWER, People's Action and Sunrise Movement to educate the public on the positions of candidates for Senate. Return to [anagy@fwwatch.org](mailto:anagy@fwwatch.org).

Candidate Name:

*Secretary of State Alex Padilla*

Campaign Address:

*n/a*

Campaign Phone Number:

*n/a*

Person Completing the Questionnaire:

*David Beltran*

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Is the Person Completing Questionnaire Authorized To?

*Yes*

### **PART 1**

#### **----- CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT -----**

1. Fracking, short for high-volume hydraulic fracturing, is an unconventional and dangerous process used widely in the last decade to recover previously inaccessible gas and oil stored deep underground. It requires millions of gallons of water, sand, and chemicals pumped at high pressure to break apart shale deposits to release the gas or oil. Many of the chemicals used are

known to have carcinogenic, neurotoxic, or endocrine-disrupting effects; others have not been tested for toxicities. In addition, the gas and oil recovered through fracking are leading to increased greenhouse gas emissions and are driving increased climate change. As a member of the Senate, would you push for legislation to ban fracking across the country? \*

Yes, climate change is an existential crisis.

No

Other:

Explain your answer:

2. Nearly universal scientific consensus confirms that human fossil fuel use is a main cause of deepening climate change. Meanwhile, ongoing fossil fuel infrastructure development, including new pipelines and gas-fired power plants, threatens to tie America to generations more of fossil fuel dependency. Additionally, fossil fuel infrastructure can leak, spill and explode, directly threatening communities in close proximity to the development. As a member of the Senate, would you push for legislation to halt new fossil fuel infrastructure immediately? \*

XX Yes, climate change is an existential crisis.

No

Other:

Explain your answer:

3. Since 2015 the United States has seen exponential growth in the export of crude oil and natural gas. These exports are contributing greatly to the release of greenhouse gases internationally, while threatening impacted communities in America. As a member of the Senate, would you push for legislation to reinstate a ban on crude oil exports, and institute a ban on natural gas and liquified natural gas exports? \*

XX Yes, climate change is an existential crisis.

No

Other:

Explain your answer:

4. There has been discussion of addressing climate change through pricing schemes such as carbon taxes. However, pricing has not been shown to be an effective climate tool and in places where taxes have been implemented, like British Columbia, greenhouse gas emissions have not gone down, but actually have risen. Would you oppose efforts to enact a carbon tax in the United States and instead support efforts to directly regulate emissions? \*

XX Yes, I support direct regulation of emissions.

No

Other:

Explain your answer:

5. As a U.S. Senator, would you push for legislation to immediately impose a moratorium on all new fossil fuel development on federal lands? \*

XX Yes

No

Other:

Explain your answer:

6. Climate change presents an existential threat to humanity and we need a Green New Deal that meets the scope and scale of the climate emergency. Sen. Bernie Sanders has developed a Green New Deal that meets this challenge. His comprehensive \$16 trillion plan would ban fracking, roll back fossil fuels, provide a fair and just transition for workers, invests in energy efficiency, transitions us to 100% renewable energy for electricity by 2030, takes on big agribusiness and its climate impacts, and ensures clean water for all among other things. If appointed to the Senate, would you support legislation that enacts the Green New Deal as laid out in Sen. Sanders' plan? \*

XX Yes

No

Other:

Explain your answer:

7. For years, frontline communities in California have been fighting to stop oil and gas extraction in their neighborhoods. In California and other states around the nation, it's still legal for oil and gas drilling to happen near sensitive receptors like homes, schools, and healthcare facilities, exposing majority low-income and BIPOC communities to the negative health impacts of this relentless contamination. Among these health impacts are asthma, cancer, high-risk pregnancies, and now a higher risk for a more serious COVID-19 infection. Do you support minimum 2,500ft health and safety setbacks between oil and gas sites and sensitive receptors?

XX Yes, I have been focused on environmental justice and disproportionate impact on communities of color and low-income communities since my early days on the City Council. Here, the same principle applies and should require strong setbacks to protect sensitive receptors.

No

Other:

Explain your answer:

8. Independent family farms are being replaced by large-scale industrial livestock operations, known as factory farms. Factory farms fuel climate change, harm rural communities, put small family farms out of business, create more waste than the surrounding environment can adequately absorb and drive the public health threat of antibiotic-resistant superbugs that can make all of us sick. Concentrating animals into one factory farm, and certain types of factory farms into one part of the country, concentrates the effects of their waste on the environment.

Would you push for legislation to ban factory farms? \*

Yes, we must protect the food supply and the workers and families who produce it.

No

Other:

Explain your answer:

9. Most meat and poultry (as well as catfish and egg products) produced in the U.S. comes from plants where USDA employees perform inspections. This system of government inspection is a unique consumer protection established by laws that have served consumers well for many decades. For years, the meat industry has pursued privatized company self-inspection and faster line speeds that make inspection less effective. Do you commit to protecting the mandate that government employees perform inspections in meat and poultry plants, at line speeds that allow effective inspection, and to providing the resources necessary for the inspection program to be properly staffed and fully effective? \*

Yes

No

Other:

Explain your answer:

10. Since the end of the recession, a wave of food and agribusiness mergers has further consolidated one of the most concentrated sectors in the U.S. economy. The top four firms control 86% of corn processing, 85% of cattle slaughter, 71% of pork packing and 79% of soybean crushing. This hyper-consolidation has contributed to declining farm incomes, loss of choice of inputs for farmers, stagnant wages and increased layoffs for workers, higher grocery prices and fewer choices for consumers, the erosion of rural economic vitality and a less resilient food system overall. Do you support the establishment of a moratorium on mergers of food and agricultural companies? Would you push for legislation to require federal regulators to

update their guidelines for reviewing mergers to consider broader impacts on competition and market power, beyond the consumer welfare standard? \*

XX Yes, I support tough antitrust laws and strong enforcement, including rigorous pre-transaction investigation and review of consolidations, especially in this sector.

No

Other:

Explain your answer:

11. Since peaking in 1977, federal funding for water infrastructure has been cut by 74% in real dollars. As a result of these cuts, localities have struggled to meet the growing costs of capital investments in our water system, and many have raised rates or turned to private companies. The WATER Act has been introduced in multiple Congresses to address this situation by dramatically increasing funding for the State Revolving Funds, which send money to the states to loan at low interest to localities for needed repairs and upgrades to our water systems. If elected, would you co-sponsor the WATER Act which provides \$35 billion annually in federal funding to improve the infrastructure of publicly owned, operated and managed water systems?

\*

XX Yes, I support the goals and policies reflected in the bill, including investments in infrastructure and SRFs, and would work with my colleagues to reflect these policies in legislation.

No

Other:

Explain your answer:

12. Research has shown that after privatization, water utilities often see rate increases, workforce reductions, and a backlog of maintenance issues. In addition, under some privatization contracts, upfront monies paid to the municipality are paid back to the water company through ratepayer bills. Given these concerns, do you oppose privatization of water and wastewater utilities, including through private-public partnerships? \*

Yes

No

XX Other: Yes, privatization should be severely restricted or foreclosed because they are incented to place profit over people, which is inappropriate for a public resource like water. Public-private partnerships, if appropriately structured and overseen to promote the public interest, can be important to serve rural or underserved communities.

Explain your answer:

13. The Supreme Court ruling in the Citizens United case made it nearly impossible to keep corporate money out of politics. As a result, nearly unrestrained money has flooded into our elections. Do you support a constitutional amendment that would overturn Citizens United? What other measures would you propose for drastically reducing the role of money in our electoral system? \*

XX Yes, we should overturn Citizens United and support a constitutional amendment to do so. We should strengthen the FEC and pass the DISCLOSE Act.

No

Other:

Explain your answer:

14. In 2013, the Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act, ushering in a new era of legislation restricting the right to vote. State legislatures across the country have moved to restrict the right to vote. Would you support efforts to reinstate the central provisions of the VRA and require the federal government to review state laws that require photo IDs to vote or reduce multilingual voting materials? \*

XX Yes, and I support a ban on Voter ID requirements, and I support a requirement for accurately translated voting materials.

No

Other:

Explain your answer:

15. What other policies do you support for increasing participation in our elections?

- Support requiring all states to offer no-excuse and permanent vote-by-mail options.
- Support requiring early in-person voting.
- Support requiring Automatic Voter Registration, Online Voter Registration, and Same Day Voter Registration.
- Support independent redistricting committees.

## **PART 2**

### **----- HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS -----**

16. As part of People's Action, Ground Game contributed to the creation of the Homes Guarantee platform which aims to ensure affordable, sustainable housing for everyone in

America. Will you sign the Homes Guarantee? (Read more here:

[https://homesguarantee.com/wp-content/uploads/Homes-Guarantee-\\_-Briefing-Book.pdf](https://homesguarantee.com/wp-content/uploads/Homes-Guarantee-_-Briefing-Book.pdf))

I believe that housing should be a right, and I strongly support the goals of housing for all and a massive expansion of affordable housing, especially for impacted communities that have been subject to racial segregation and redlining as well as low-income communities impacted by years of disinvestment. This has long been a priority for me, dating back to my earliest days on the City Council in Los Angeles.

17. Do you believe that housing is a human right?

Yes

18. Do you support building public or social housing in your district?

Yes

19. Do you support a national moratorium on evictions & foreclosures during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Yes

20. Do you support the Rent and Mortgage Cancellation Act, HR 6515?

(<https://homesguarantee.com/wp-content/uploads/HR-6515-bill-summary.pdf>)

I strongly support mortgage and rent relief for all those impacted by COVID-19 and its economic fallout, who are unable to pay as a result. I support a cancellation policy with respect to properties held by wealthy corporate owners, but we need to protect small community owners from unintended consequences -- working families and people of color who depend on renting a unit for their retirement or livelihood, who should not lose their own homes or be forced to sell to corporate owners. I support massive economic relief being directed into the pockets of workers and families, and I strongly support the bill's plan for a government-sponsored fund to acquire multi-family housing to ensure it remains affordable.

21. Do you support abolishing ICE?

I would fundamentally restructure it, root and branch.

22. Do you support a path to citizenship for all undocumented people living in the U.S.?

Yes

23. Do you support expanding the number of refugees and asylum-seekers admitted to the United States?

Yes

24. Do you support the de-militarization of the US Border?

Yes

----- **CRIMINAL JUSTICE** -----

25. Do you support demilitarizing the police, including a prohibition on the transfer of military weapons to police?

Yes

26. Do you support defunding the police?

We should end mass incarceration and fundamentally reimagine the role of policing and shift appropriate resources into communities most impacted by the criminal justice system.

27. Do you support a ban on "predictive policing" programs such as LASER?

Yes, I support a ban on federal funds for programs or software tools that are shown, as with LASER, to facilitate racial profiling, violate community norms of privacy, disproportionately impact communities of color (including in terms of enforcement activity), and do not advance public safety.

28. Do you support banning private prisons?

Yes

29. Do you support prison abolition?

No, I support ending mass incarceration and a shift of resources away from jails and prisons to health, community support, and restoration. I support jail and prison closures that result from successful decarceration while maintaining community health and public safety.

30. Do you support the decriminalization of sex work by consenting adults?

I believe we need to emphasize protection and support for those who are in sex work under any form of duress or exploitation, which remains a significant challenge, and which should be the priority of enforcement policy.

----- **HEALTHCARE & EDUCATION** -----

31. Do you agree that all women deserve the right to accessible and affordable reproductive healthcare, and access to a safe, affordable abortion?

Yes

32. Do you support single-payer Medicare For All?

Yes

33. Do you support taking on the big pharmaceutical companies to lower drug costs for essential medications, including the use of antitrust enforcement and compulsory licensing authority?

Yes

34. Do you support fully-funding universal prekindergarten and child care nationwide?

Yes

35. Do you support guaranteeing tuition-free public colleges and universities?

I support tuition-free college and universities for all except those who already have wealth or substantial financial resources to pay.

36. Do you favor canceling all existing student debt in the U.S., both public and private?

Yes

----- **ECONOMIC JUSTICE** -----

37. Do you support raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour nationwide?

Yes

38. Do you support increasing rights and protections for workers who want to organize a union at their workplace, including the [Protecting the Right to Organize Act?](#)

Yes

39. Do you support increasing the benefit amount and expanding eligibility for the following government programs: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Social Security

Disability Insurance (SSDI), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and Social Security?

Yes

40. Do you favor increasing income, capital gains, and estate taxes on wealthy Americans?

Yes

**----- LGBTQ+ Rights & Equality -----**

41. Do you support a nation-wide prohibition on discrimination based on LGBTQ+ identity in employment, housing, education, healthcare, and businesses that offer goods or services to the public, with no religious exceptions?

Yes

42. Do you support requiring all public and private health insurers to cover gender-affirming health care, including for transgender and non-binary youth?

Yes

43. Do you support a nationwide ban on conversion therapy for LGBTQ+ minors?

Yes

**----- VOTING RIGHTS & CORPORATE MONEY IN POLITICS -----**

44. Do you pledge to refuse campaign donations from all corporations, corporate PACs, corporate lobbyists, and corporate executives?

I will not accept contributions from Big Oil, Pharma, payday lenders, private prisons, tobacco, or for-profit colleges.

45. Do you support restoring voting rights to felons nationwide?

Yes, I made this a top priority as Secretary of State, including supporting recent Proposition 17. I support broad enfranchisement of people who have experienced incarceration or have prior convictions, and they should have the franchise returned without onerous fees, fines, or administrative barriers.

46. Do you support a public voter referendum to approve or disapprove the LA Olympics?

No, and we should have appropriate mechanisms in place to ensure that all communities --

especially communities of color and low-income communities -- benefit from hosting the Games.

----- **U.S. MILITARY** -----

47. Do you support ending and withdrawing from the endless US wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Niger, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen?

Yes

48. Do you support repealing the 2001 and 2002 Authorizations for Use of Military Force?

Yes

49. Do you support a full prohibition on further CIA and US Military use of drone strikes?

No, and I would insist on rigorous intelligence in support of such proposed uses of drones as well as rigorous and consistent oversight.

50. Do you support significantly reducing the size of the military?

I believe we need a healthy military and defense system to protect the nation. We should reduce unnecessary or excessive government spending in the military and defense sectors as we discharge other, morally critical priorities -- to recover from the pandemic, repair and rebuild our economy for workers and families, restore communities of color and low income communities too long at the margins and especially harmed in this crisis, confront the climate crisis, and ensure quality health care for all.

51. What steps will you take to divest, defund, and disarm from the military industrial complex from a local to a national scale?

See #50, above.

----- **FOREIGN POLICY** -----

52. Do you support the Boycott, Divest, and Sanctions (BDS) movement and its call for Israel to comply with international law?

NO

53. Do you support prohibiting military aid and arms exports to countries with authoritarian regimes and/or human rights violations?

With respect to military aid and security assistance, we must advance several goals -- protecting human rights and democracy abroad, protecting our vital national security interests, and supporting our most important, longstanding allies.

54. How will you prioritize diplomacy over militarism in US foreign policy?

Diplomacy is powerful -- it and economic leverage should always be our first options.

Our nation must be a beacon of hope that stands up and welcomes the vulnerable and attracts the best minds and entrepreneurs. We must also seek smart solutions that engage our allies to deter military actions.