

# Planned Parenthood Advocates Mar Monte SVC

## Candidate Questionnaire 2016 General Election

Candidate Name: Lucas Ramirez

Incumbent? No

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Candidate for the office of: Mountain View City Council

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Name of Campaign Committee: Ramirez for Council 2016

Fundraising Address: P.O. Box 390211, Mountain View, CA 94039

Candidate ID #1384620

Contact Person: Lucas Ramirez

Fundraising Goal/Budget: \$24,000

One of the boxes below must be checked for the questionnaire to be valid:

(Note: endorsements are for the current election cycle only) \*

**Yes, I want to be considered for a Planned Parenthood Advocates Mar Monte endorsement if I qualify.**

## Questions

To be considered for an endorsement by the Planned Parenthood Advocates Mar Monte, you must complete ALL of the following questions. Please feel free to explain your answers to the questions in the space provided.

### 1. Every Woman's Right to Safe, Legal Abortion

Every woman should have access to the full range of reproductive health care services, including access to safe and legal abortion. Access to abortion is legal, constitutionally protected, and consistently supported by a majority of Americans. Do you support every woman's right to safe, legal abortion under the terms set out in the Roe vs. Wade decision? \*

**Yes**

Please explain your position if you would like:

I trust in women to make decisions about their own health. It is important that our government and judicial system protect a woman's right to make her own reproductive choices.

### 2. Public Funding for Abortion

The right to safe, legal abortion is meaningless without affordable access to services. The California Supreme Court has ruled in *Committee to Defend Reproductive Rights vs. Myers* (1981) that budget restrictions on Medi-Cal abortion funding are unconstitutional because they violate privacy and equal protection provisions in the State Constitution. Under the equal protection provision, if some reproductive health services are publicly funded then all must be publicly funded, including abortion. Planned Parenthood Advocates Mar Monte believes that this reasoning is valid when applied to federal funding of reproductive health services as well. Do you support public funding (at all levels of government: federal, state and local) of abortion services for low-income women?\*

**Yes**

Please explain your position if you would like:

I support public funding of abortion services for low-income women. The reproductive decisions women can make should not be limited to whether they can afford to pay for them. Government should and must assist them.

### 3. Restrictions on Abortion Access

Legislation and budget amendments that would impose special restrictions, regulations, and obstacles to abortion access on both women and providers are often proposed. These restrictions include such things as mandated waiting periods, coercive and humiliating forced speech (so-called “informed consent”), limits on public funding of abortion services, and limits on access to abortion guaranteed by the Roe vs. Wade decision. Restrictions aimed at abortion providers (sometimes referred to as “Targeted Restrictions on Abortion Providers” or TRAP laws) include regulations that single out providers, facilities and drugs related to abortion services as a tactic to create barriers to abortion access. Planned Parenthood Advocates Mar Monte believes that abortion should be regulated no differently than other comparable procedures. Do you oppose these targeted restrictions on abortion access? \*

**Yes**

Please explain your position if you would like:

I oppose these targeted restrictions on abortion access. They are transparent attempts to curtail the ability of women to access legal and safe services.

### 4. Confidential Access to Safe, Legal Abortion for Teens

Most teens involve their parents in important decisions such as whether to continue or terminate an unintended pregnancy. Some teens choose not to, or simply cannot involve their parents in such decisions for good reasons, such as fear of violence or being kicked out of the home. These teens must have confidential access to safe, legal abortion services. Californians have voted three times in the last decade to uphold the ability of California teens to confidentially access safe, legal abortion. Do you support California teens’ ability to confidentially access safe, legal abortion? \*

**Yes**

Please explain your position if you would like:

The reproductive choices made a woman of any age are, ideally, made privately in consultation with her health care provider. No woman - including teenage women - should be forced to consult an outside party in order to obtain an abortion or wait a certain number of days before obtaining a procedure. We must trust women to make the best health care decisions for themselves.

### 5. Family Planning and the Family PACT Program

The Family Planning, Access, Care and Treatment program (Family PACT) has been providing cost-effective, preventive family planning and reproductive health services to

low-income men and women throughout California since 1997. These services receive a 9:1 federal match and for each dollar spent, the state saves an estimated \$9.25 by preventing unintended pregnancies. Services offered through Family PACT include breast and cervical cancer screenings; annual exams; contraceptive services; family planning counseling; screening for anemia, diabetes, and high blood pressure; testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases; safer sex counseling; basic infertility screening; and referrals for specialized health care. There will be a significant increase in the number of low-income individuals with access to comprehensive health care coverage under the Affordable Care Act, which includes reproductive health care services. However, Family PACT will continue to be an important program to meet the reproductive health needs of teens, the remaining uninsured and individuals who will not have access to comprehensive health care coverage such as undocumented immigrants. Do you support funding for family planning for all Californians who need it by supporting the Family PACT program as long as it is needed? \*

**Yes**

Please explain your position if you would like:

Yes, I support funding for the Family PACT program. All people, no matter their immigration status, deserve access to preventative, family planning and reproductive health services.

## 6. Increase Medi-Cal Reimbursement Rates

California ranks 48th in the nation in Medicaid reimbursement rates for health care services provided to the more than seven million low-income Californians and undocumented immigrants who depend on Medi-Cal and receive their medical care from providers such as Planned Parenthood. As a result of these extremely low rates, every year, fewer providers can afford to accept Medi-Cal patients and Planned Parenthood health centers can provide care to fewer Californians. Without an increase to Medi-Cal reimbursement rates to a sustainable level, the number of Medi-Cal providers will continue to decline and patient access will decrease. Do you support increasing current reimbursement rates for Medi-Cal providers to sustainable levels? \*

**Yes**

Please explain your position if you would like:

I am hopeful that our representatives in the California State Legislature will increase current reimbursements for Medi-Cal providers as these medical professionals provide needed health care services for our residents.

## 7. Ability of Planned Parenthood Health Centers to Effectively Provide Services Under the ACA

Planned Parenthood Advocates Mar Monte believes that the Affordable Care Act, as implemented in California through both the health insurance exchange Covered California and the state Medi-Cal program, must ensure that Planned Parenthood health centers can meaningfully participate as an essential community provider. Patients must have timely access to reproductive health care, including physical exams, contraception and abortion; patients must be able to continue accessing confidential services when needed; and individuals not included in insurance expansion efforts must maintain access to reproductive health care. Do you support the meaningful participation of Planned Parenthood health centers in the Affordable Care Act, and recognize the special attention Planned Parenthood health centers merit so that patients have continued access to confidential services and reproductive health care? \*

**Yes**

Please explain your position if you would like:

I believe that all health centers that provide genuine medical services (i.e., excluding so-called "crisis pregnancy centers") should be able to participate as a community provider through the Affordable Care Act.

## 8. Comprehensive Sexual Health Education

An overwhelming majority of California parents support teaching comprehensive sexual health education in public schools. In 2015, the California legislature passed AB 329, which strengthens existing state requirements for HIV/AIDS prevention education and comprehensive sexual health education to ensure that students are receiving information and skills-building opportunities needed to live healthy lives and succeed in school. This new law builds on the requirement that public schools offering sexual health education must ensure that the courses are comprehensive, age-appropriate, medically accurate and inclusive. Unfortunately, some school districts do not comply and/or openly defy state law by teaching abstinence-only education programs. Do you support teaching comprehensive sexual health education, including information about both abstinence and contraception, in public schools? In addition, do you support active monitoring and enforcement of this policy? \*

**Yes**

Please explain your position if you would like:

I am proud of California for implementing AB 329, which will increase comprehensive sexual health education for our students. Access to sex ed is incredibly important in keeping our school-age students healthy and lowering our state's numbers related to

STD's and teen pregnancy. I support teaching comprehensive sexual education and support active monitoring and enforcement of this policy.

#### 9. Release of Students to Access Confidential Health Services

California law allows students aged 12 and older to be released confidentially from school to obtain confidential services such as reproductive health, drug and alcohol abuse treatment, and mental health services. While parents rightfully want to be involved in their teens' lives, and Planned Parenthood health centers actively promote family communication, it is also known that some teens will not access the sensitive services they need if they cannot do so confidentially. Do you support confidential access to reproductive health services for minors, including the release of students 12 and older from school to obtain these services? \*

**Yes**

Please explain your position if you would like:

I support confidential access to reproductive health services for minors, including the release of students 12 and older from school. I encourage all public school entities to partner with Planned Parenthood to the fullest extent that they are able in order to increase education and access to health services for their students.

#### 10. Public Partnership with Planned Parenthood Health Centers

Each year Planned Parenthood health centers throughout California provide more than 1.5 million health care visits. The affordable health services provided at Planned Parenthood health centers include preventive and reproductive health care for women, men, and teens, and in some centers, primary and pediatric care as well. In addition, educators associated with Planned Parenthood health centers provide sexual health education to hundreds of thousands of Californians annually with an emphasis on school-based programs to reduce teen pregnancy and help teens make healthy choices. These programs depend upon the cooperation and partnership of local governments and entities, such as school boards, and often rely on these local public agencies to participate financially by providing grants and contracts. Do you support public agency partnerships with Planned Parenthood health centers? \*

**Yes**

Please explain your position if you would like:

I support public agency partnerships with Planned Parenthood health centers. The more residents who gain exposure to and knowledge of the great resource that are our PP health centers, the better off our communities will be.

## COMMITMENT

Planned Parenthood Advocates Mar Monte strongly encourages candidates to champion women's health issues above and beyond maintaining a 100 percent Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California voting record while in office. Below is a list of ways for candidates to champion Planned Parenthood health centers--its patients and its services--and Planned Parenthood Advocates Mar Monte.

Please check the boxes below that indicate your commitment to Planned Parenthood health centers and Actions Funds:

*I will speak out publicly in support of Planned Parenthood health centers or action funds*

*I will speak out publicly in support of publicly-funded family planning programs*

*I will attend a Planned Parenthood health center or action fund function or event*

*I will visit and tour a Planned Parenthood health center*

### Acknowledgment

I have read the questionnaire and provided answers to the best of my abilities. By checking the box below, I am acknowledging that the opinions expressed in this questionnaire are my own and I understand that these opinions will be weighed by Planned Parenthood Advocates Mar Monte when deciding candidate rankings and endorsements. \*

I certify that all of the answers in this questionnaire are my own.