



Planned Parenthood Shasta Pacific Action Fund

Questionnaire for Local Candidates

Candidate Name: Katy Miessner Incumbent: Yes No

Party: The seat is non-partisan; I am a registered Democrat since 1977 (my 18th birthday)

Candidate for: Vallejo City Council 2013

Name of Campaign Committee and committee #: Miessner for City Council 2013

Name of Committee Chair: Myself/ Vallejo City Councilmember Marti Brown advising

How much money have you raised? \$25,000 How much cash do you have on hand? \$10,000

Address: PO Box 6111, Vallejo, CA 94591

E-mail: KatyForCouncil@gmail.com Web Site: KatyForCouncil.com

Phone: 707-642-2100 Fax: n/a

Contact: Katy Miessner KatyforCouncil@gmail.com or 707-642-2100

If you do not want Planned Parenthood Shasta Pacific Action Fund's endorsement, check here:

**Please attached your current endorsement list and FPPC report
Endorsements are for the current election cycle only and may be revoked at any time.**

Information about the issues raised in the following questions can be found on the Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California web site, www.PPActionCA.org

1. PERSONAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH DECISIONS:

Planned Parenthood believes a woman has the right to obtain a medically safe, legal abortion under the standards set forth by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Roe v. Wade*. In that decision, the Court held that the implicit right to privacy guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution protects a woman's right to decide whether or not to carry her pregnancy to term up to the point of fetal viability. At the point of fetal viability, states may prohibit abortion except when it is necessary to protect the woman's life or health. Do you support a woman's right to obtain a medically safe, legal abortion? Please explain your position.

Yes. A woman must have the right to choose in order to control her own destiny. No one should make a decision about a woman's pregnancy except her. It is she that, with her doctor's advice, understands her health, her fetus's health, her ability to raise a child, the impact of an abortion vs. impact of childbirth on her health and life.

2. PUBLICLY FUNDED SERVICES:

Protecting a woman's right to choose is meaningless without access to abortion services. The California Supreme Court has ruled in *Committee to Defend Reproductive Rights v. 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. Do you support public (state) funding of abortion services for low-income women? Please explain your position.

Yes. A woman must have the right to choose in order to control her own destiny and those women who are not given access to safe and legal abortions are denied that right. It is in the interest of everyone that a woman has access to full array of healthcare – preventative healthcare—including abortion, prenatal, etc. It's essential in the public health arena. Provides those who otherwise could not afford healthcare the care they need, and preventative healthcare stretches healthcare dollars to improve even more lives, by keeping healthy the folks who depend on it. This includes access to a safe and legal abortion if necessary. Health care cannot truly be healthcare without providing funds to one of the most important components of a woman's health: her reproductive health, including abortion services.

3. FUNDING FOR FAMILY PLANNING:

1.67 million low-income women and men in California receive family planning services each year through the state Family PACT program. These services receive a \$9-to-\$1 federal match. In addition, for each dollar spent on family planning, the state saves an estimated \$9.25 by preventing unintended pregnancies. Services offered through FamilyPACT 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. These services fill an unmet need for women and men who often have inadequate or no health insurance and include services for undocumented immigrants. Unfortunately, due to budget deficits family planning services continue to be threatened with cuts. Do you support continued funding for FamilyPACT and family planning services? Please explain your position.

Yes – see 2!

4. MEDI-CAL REIMBURSEMENT RATES:

California ranks 48th in the nation in Medicaid reimbursement rates for health care services provided to the 6.7 million low-income Californians and undocumented immigrants who depend on Medi-Cal and receive their medical care from providers such as Planned Parenthood. Despite this, the state has failed to address the need to increase Medi-Cal reimbursement rates and continues to threaten further cuts. There is evidence that reforms focused solely on cutting health care programs often lead to higher medical costs in the long run. Do you support increasing current reimbursement rates for Medi-Cal providers? Please explain your position.

Yes – see 2 – and “penny wise, pound foolish”: this leads to the use of Emergency Rooms for health care which is the most expensive and the least effective in that treatment is not sought until it's a crisis.

5. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT:

Women's health care matters: to families, communities and to the State of California. Planned Parenthood believes the implementation of the Affordable Care Act must ensure that Planned Parenthood can meaningfully participate as an essential community provider in provider networks; that patients have timely access to reproductive health care, including physical exams, contraception and abortion; that patients are able to continue accessing confidential services when needed; and that individuals not included in insurance expansion efforts maintain access to reproductive health care. Do you support Planned

Parenthood's meaningful participation in the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, a patient's continued access to confidential services and reproductive health care? Please explain your position.

I support meaningful participation of Planned Parenthood in implementation and delivery of services related to the Affordable Care Act. Planned Parenthood is a trusted organization that has been providing high quality affordable health services to women for many years, and knows the issues that affect women's health, and must be at the table, to ensure that the health care needs to women and families, especially low income, are met.

6. COMPREHENSIVE SEXUAL Health EDUCATION:

An overwhelming majority of California parents support the teaching of comprehensive sexual health education in our schools. In 2003, California legislators passed SB 71 (California Comprehensive Sexual Health and HIV/AIDS Prevention Education Act) which requires that public schools offering sexual health education must ensure the courses are comprehensive, age-appropriate and medically accurate. However, some school districts are out of compliance and/or openly defy California law by bringing in abstinence-only education programs. Do you support the teaching and enforcement of comprehensive sexual health education, including information about both abstinence and contraception, in public schools? Please explain your position.

Yes. As a pre-teen in Michigan, years ago, I had comprehensive Sex Health Ed classes provided by our school. As a teenager, it helped me immensely in making good choices. It's alarming to see the attacks on this kind of education in the 21st century. Abstinence-Only doesn't work. Teenagers need the tools to practice safe sex and birth control, especially in this age of intense media pressure (tv, movies, videos, music, facebook, etc etc).

7. REFUSAL OF ABSTINENCE-ONLY FUNDING:

Studies have shown that comprehensive sexual health education programs are the most effective way of reducing teen pregnancy rates. California has a long history of refusing to accept any federal money that is tied to abstinence-only-until-marriage education. Do you support California's efforts to ensure that sexual health education programs are evidence based and medically accurate? Please explain your position.

Yes – sexual health education must be evidence based and medically accurate! There is so much misinformation hiding behind religion/creationism. People cannot make good decisions without factual information. Without accurate sexual health education, people, women, teens especially—are susceptible to myths about how to avoid a pregnancy after unprotected sex. Some of these myths are dangerous to a woman's health.

8. RELEASE FOR CONFIDENTIAL HEALTH SERVICES:

California law allows for students to be released 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 actively promotes family communication, we also know that healthy family relationships cannot be mandated by the government. Most teens involve their parents in reproductive health care decisions, but some teens simply cannot involve their parents because they live in dangerous homes. Do you support a minors' confidential access to reproductive health services? Please explain your position.

I absolutely support a minor's confidential access to reproductive health services. Some minors just do not have the relationship with their parents to seek advice or access to care. And for some, it can be dangerous.

9. PARENTAL NOTIFICATION:

Over the last six years, Californians have rejected THREE ballot initiatives that threaten teen safety by mandating parental notification prior to a minor terminating a pregnancy. Planned Parenthood and a coalition of doctors, nurses and other medical professionals have successfully campaigned against these dangerous initiatives. Do you oppose parental notification prior to a minor terminating a pregnancy? How would you join us in supporting teen safety by publicly opposing parental notification initiatives? Please explain your position.

I oppose parental notification prior to a minor terminating a pregnancy for three reasons. A minor may live in a home where there are abusive parents/guardians. A minor woman may be a victim of incest. Adding notification adds time and forestalls termination of an unwanted pregnancy, which can lead to unnecessary complications.

I would oppose parental notification initiatives by publicly endorsing Planned Parenthood's position and I may be able to host a fundraiser, depending on timing. Or, do phone calls. I don't know if there's local legislation that can be passed – I would consider supporting something proposed by Planned Parenthood. I would definitely support, and advocate, a City Council resolution opposing any future Parental Notification state proposition.

10. ABORTION RESTRICTIONS:

There are bills and amendments proposed each year in the state Legislature that single out women, especially low-income and poor women, by attempting to restrict their access to safe, legal abortions. These proposed restrictions come in the form of mandated waiting periods, so-called "informed consent" requirements, limits on state funding of abortion services and limiting access to abortion at any time to protect a woman's health and future fertility. Planned Parenthood believes all women, regardless of their ability to pay or geographic location, should have equal access to abortion services. Do you oppose restricting abortion access (funding cuts, geographic limits, scope of practice, waiting periods, informed consent, etc.)? Please explain your position.

I am deeply opposed to limits and/or restrictions to abortion services. Again, healthcare—including abortion, prenatal, etc, is essential in the public health arena because it provides those who otherwise could not afford healthcare the care they need, and preventative healthcare stretches healthcare dollars to improve even more lives, by keeping healthy the folks who depend on it. This includes access to a safe and legal abortion. Women do not have true liberty if they cannot control their reproductive lives.

Women of low-income are often times these days the victims of the war on a woman's right to choose, because they most often have no other options. In some cases, this is leading to the back-alley abortions that were supposed to have stopped with Roe v. Wade.

Locally, I also worry about the Bible Church being built right near Planned Parenthood on Broadway. I have no idea if they'd take an anti-choice position by picketing or put pressure on the clinic but if they do, the City of Vallejo must ensure that women have access to this facility. There are many low income women in Vallejo who depend on free /low cost access to good health care and safe abortion services.

11. PARTNERSHIP FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH:

Each year Planned Parenthood health centers provide more than 800,000 visits in California. Planned Parenthood's affordable health services include preventive and reproductive health care for women men, and teens. In addition, Planned Parenthood educators provide sexual health education to 253,000 Californians annually with emphasis on school-based programs to reduce teen pregnancy and help teens make healthy choices. Many programs rely on participation of local public agencies in the form of grants or cooperative programming. Do you support local governments forming partnerships with Planned Parenthood? Please explain your position.

Partnerships with non-profit health care providers are a cost-effective way for governmental agencies to deliver health care services to citizens in need. As a former Budget Director for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, I know how important these partnerships—in the form of grants/contract—are in the delivery of quality, low-cost health care services to low-income communities.

I have read the above questionnaire and provided answers to the best of my abilities. I am committed to Planned Parenthood and its mission to promote, deliver directly and coordinate the provision of comprehensive health care services and direct patient care, including a full range of sexual and reproductive health services through education, advocacy, counseling and clinical services.

Candidate Signature:

Date: 09/06/2013

Planned Parenthood Shasta Pacific Action Fund strongly encourages endorsed candidates to champion women's health issues above and beyond maintaining a 100% pro-choice voting record while in office. Below is a list of ways for endorsed candidates to champion Planned Parenthood, our patients, and our services.

Note: Response to the statements below are a means of gauging a candidates' commitment to reproductive health issues and will not factor into the endorsement process.

Please check the boxes below that indicate your commitment to Planned Parenthood:

My Commitment to Planned Parenthood

- I will speak out publically in support of Planned Parenthood
- I will speak out publically in support of publicly-funded family planning programs
- I will attend a Planned Parenthood Function or Event
- I will visit and tour a Planned Parenthood health center

Candidate Signature:

Date: 09/06/2013



Return Questionnaire by C.O.B. 9/6/13 to:

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