

CHIRLA's Congressional District 34

Candidate Name: Sara Hernandez

Biography: Sara Hernandez grew up in the Central Valley, the daughter of legal aid attorneys who moved to Salinas in the mid 70's to help support and fight with the farmworker movement. Sara began her career as an LAUSD Middle School teacher. While teaching, Sara recognized the need to expand educational opportunities for the children of Los Angeles - Sara then started an educational nonprofit to help send low-income kids to college. After starting her non-profit Sara Hernandez went on to law school here in LA and thereafter became Special Counsel to City Councilmember Jose Huizar. Alongside Councilmen Huizar, Sara worked to revitalize Downtown LA, open small businesses and even helped to start programs aimed at combatting homelessness.

Money Fundraised to Date: We reported raising 200k+ at our last filing.

Endorsements: Assemblywomen Anna Caballero, Former LA City Controller Wendy Greuel, Pico-Union NC President Jay Park, Central City East Director Estella Lopez among many other community leaders.

Campaign Contact Information: Arielle Yuspeh - Arielle@SaraHernandezforCongress.com

Issues

Immigration: We must protect our immigrant population, disavow the Trump plan to cut funding to sanctuary cities, and stand up for our most vulnerable communities. I will serve as a fighter against any action this administration seeks to take against undocumented immigrants, DACA and DAPA students and will work to revive and pass the DREAM act and fight every day for our immigrant population. I will be an aggressive and tireless voice to protect the voiceless and targeted - hate has no place in our democracy and I will fight it at every turn.

Education: I saw firsthand how local, state and federal policies interact inside the classroom, I also witnessed their lack thereof when it comes to children and families in need. I believe that together we can send someone to Washington DC that understands where the policy meets real life and can start to fight for our fair share of federal resources. We must protect our funding for public education and I will fight tooth and nail to ensure we are giving our children the best educational opportunities - I believe in order for our country to thrive, the next generation simply must be given the tools to reach their best potential. This includes protecting Dreamers and DACA students -- students who have jumped through every hoop, obeyed every law and done everything in their power to achieve academically and educationally. These kids should be protected and able to contribute their talents to the country where they grew up and have worked so hard to excel.

Housing: Securing federal dollars from HUD directed towards mental health and homeless assistance grants is incredibly important. We are facing an affordable housing and homelessness crisis right here in the 34th District. We simply must do a better job of working with the Department of Housing and Urban Development to address our affordable housing crisis on a local level and find ways to support investment in infrastructure and public transportation to improve the quality of life for the people of our community.

Healthcare: In protecting our next generation it's important we take into consideration that California has the most to lose when it comes to the repeal of the ACA. We need to ensure that the 1/3 of California's children currently benefitting from the Affordable Care Act have an alternative that is going to service them as best as possible, and that whatever comes next includes care for mental health -- securing federal dollars that affect the everyday lives of people in my community isn't just a priority, it is essential. The health of our individuals lies in the core of the health of our communities that's why I will do everything in my power to ensure continued access to Medicare and Medicaid for everyone who needs it.

Labor: As the daughter of 2 legal-aid attorneys who fought for the rights of farmworkers, I and my family are proudly pro-labor. As an LAUSD Middle School teacher I was grateful that UTLA had my back as an educator. I have worked closely with various Building Trades and will continue to support and fight for the rights of our workers.

CHIRLA's Congressional District 34

Nombre del candidato: Sara Hernandez

Biografía: Sara Hernández creció en el Valle Central, la hija de abogados de ayuda legal que se trasladó a Salinas a mediados de los 70's para ayudar a apoyar y luchar con el movimiento de trabajadores agrícolas. Sara comenzó su carrera como maestra. Mientras que la enseñ Sara reconoció la necesidad de ampliar las oportunidades educativas para los niños de Los Ángeles - Sara entonces comenzó una educación sin fines de lucro para ayudar a enviar a niños de bajos ingresos a la universidad. Después de iniciar su sin fines de lucro, Sara Hernández fue a la facultad de derecho aquí en Los Ángeles y posteriormente se convirtió en Asesora Especial del Concejal de la Ciudad José Huizar. Junto a los concejales Huizar, Sara trabajó para revitalizar el Centro de Los Ángeles, abrir pequeñas empresas e incluso ayudar a iniciar programas dirigidos a combatir la falta de vivienda.

Temas

Inmigración: Debemos proteger a nuestra población inmigrante, rechazar el plan de Trump que recortara el financiamiento a las ciudades de santuario y defender a nuestras comunidades más vulnerables. Serviré como una luchadora contra cualquier acción que esta administración intente tomar contra inmigrantes indocumentados, DACA y estudiantes. Trabajaré para revivir y aprobar el DREAM Act y luchare cada día por nuestra población inmigrante. Seré una voz agresiva e infatigable para proteger a los que no tienen voz. El odio no tiene lugar en nuestra democracia y lo combatiré a cada paso.

Educación: Yo fui testigo de cómo las políticas locales, estatales y federales interactúan dentro del salón de clase, también presencié la falta de atención cuando se trata de niños y familias necesitadas. Creo que juntos podemos enviar a alguien a Washington DC que entienda donde la política cumple con la vida real y podre comenzar a luchar por nuestra justa parte de los recursos federales. Debemos proteger nuestro financiamiento para la educación pública y lucharé para asegurar que estemos dando a nuestros niños las mejores oportunidades educativas. Creo que para que nuestro país prospere, la próxima generación simplemente debe tener las herramientas para alcanzar lo mejor potencial. Esto incluye proteger a los Soñadores y estudiantes de DACA - estudiantes que han saltado a través de cada aro, han seguido todas las leyes y han hecho todo lo posible para lograr sus logros académicamente y educativamente. Nuestros niños deben ser protegidos y capaces de contribuir con sus talentos al país donde crecieron y han trabajado tan duro para sobresalir.

Vivienda: Garantizar los dólares federales HUD de hogar dirigido a la salud mental y las subvenciones de asistencia sin hogar es muy importante. Estamos enfrentando una crisis de vivienda asequible y sin techo aquí mismo en el Distrito 34. Simplemente debemos trabajar mejor con el Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano para abordar nuestra crisis de vivienda asequible a nivel local y encontrar formas de apoyar la inversión en infraestructura y transporte público para mejorar la calidad de vida de la gente de nuestra comunidad.

Salud: En la protección de nuestra próxima generación es importante tener en cuenta que California tiene más que perder cuando se trata de la derogación de la ayuda médica. Debemos asegurarnos de que la tercera parte de los niños de California que actualmente se benefician de la Ley del Cuidado de Salud a Bajo Precio tengan una alternativa que les va a servir lo mejor posible y que lo que viene a continuación incluye el cuidado de la salud mental, La vida cotidiana de las personas de mi comunidad no es sólo una prioridad, es esencial. Necesitamos proteger los programas de salud como medical y medicare que benefician nuestras familias.

Labor: Como hija de dos abogados de ayuda legal que lucharon por los derechos de los trabajadores agrícolas, yo y mi familia estamos orgullosos de trabajar en la protección del trabajo. Como ex maestra en la Intermedia de LAUSD, estoy agradecida de que UTLA tuviera mi espalda como educadora. He trabajado con varios oficios de construcción y seguiré apoyando y luchando por los derechos de nuestros trabajadores.

CHIRLA's Congressional District 34

Candidate Name: Maria Cabildo

Biography:

Maria is known as “The Patron Saint of Boyle Heights” for her work to create affordable housing from East LA to Koreatown. Over the course of her career she has created over 1,000 units of affordable housing for families, veterans, seniors and the homeless.

Maria formerly served as President of the East LA Community Corporation (ELACC), an economic and social justice organization that she co-founded in 1995 and made it into one of the most effective progressive non-profit organizations in Los Angeles. During her sixteen-year tenure as the group's President, she raised and invested more than \$200 million in the community, and built child-care centers, apartment buildings, single-family homes, and retail spaces. Together with community members, ELACC organized hundreds of residents around equity issues and helped countless families become homeowners. Currently, she is the Director of Homeless Initiatives at the LA County Community Development Commission & Housing Authority. She has also been a member of the LA City Planning Commission.

Maria was born and raised in East L.A., and is the daughter of immigrant parents who taught her the value of hard work and a love of public service. She is a graduate of the Phillips Exeter Academy, and has a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Columbia University and a Master's Degree in Urban Planning from UCLA

Money Fundraised to Date: \$100,000

Endorsements:

1. Jackie Goldberg – Progressive Leader and former Former City Councilwoman, Former School Board Member and Assemblywoman
2. Sheila Kuehl – LA County Board of Supervisors, 3rd District
3. Torie Osborn, Former Deputy Mayor
4. Dean Matsubayashi, Executive Director, Little Tokyo Service Center*
5. Isela Gracian, President, East LA Community Corporation*
6. Dora Gallo, Chief Executive Officer, A Community of Friends*
7. Rudy Espinoza, Executive Director, Leadership and Urban Renewal Network*
8. Arturo Ramirez, OMULA*
9. Sandra McNeill, Executive Director, Trust South LA
10. Tony Zapata, Veterans for Maria Cabildo
11. Ari Gutierrez, Latino Equity Alliance*
12. Baldomero Capiz, Union Binacional de ex Braceros*
13. Gilda Haas, founding Executive Director of SAJE*

Campaign Contact Information:

1. Maria Cabildo for Congress Address: 3756 West Ave. 40, Suite k #150, Los Angeles, CA 90065
2. Contact Name: Pamela Agustin 323-631-4802
3. Email: maria@mariacabildo.com

Issues

Immigration:

Maria is the proud daughter of immigrants. Through her housing development work, she has housed generations of immigrant families; helped immigrant families buy their first home and has fought to create economic self-sufficiency for immigrant communities on the East Side. In Congress, she will continue her track record of bringing government resources into the 34th Congressional District and fight against the targeting of our immigrant communities.

CHIRLA's Congressional District 34

Education:

Maria believes that every child must have access to a quality education. Whether it is in an early learning setting, an 8th grade classroom or a community college campus, Maria will fight to protect and expand federal investments to help achieve equity within our education system.

Housing:

A home is the foundation from which dreams and hope begin. No one knows this better than Maria, who spent over two decades fighting to ensure communities from Koreatown to East LA had access to stable, affordable homes in communities of opportunity. As founder and President of the East LA Community Corporation, Maria worked hard to address housing insecurity by raising and investing over \$200 million in child-care centers, apartment buildings, single-family homes, and retail spaces. In Congress, Maria will fight for the highest possible funding level for housing programs, ensure equitable access to affordable housing, and reprioritize current federal spending.

Healthcare:

Maria believes that health equity is a hallmark of a strong community. As a member of Congress, Maria is committed to protecting the health of all, especially the health of those who are most vulnerable to the recent attacks on the Affordable Care Act and women's reproductive rights.

Labor:

Maria believes that strengthening the middle class is essential to our economic stability and prosperity. She understands that rising income disparity and job insecurity threaten to damage that stability for both workers and small businesses. For our economy to recover, we must help our small businesses thrive, innovate and reinvest in our communities. Maria will also fight hard for worker's protection and job training for vulnerable populations to compete effectively in this economy and improve access to good paying jobs. She will promote common-sense solutions such as closing the gender pay gap and raising the federal minimum wage.

Diversity and Inclusion:

Maria's advocacy is grounded in the belief that all people deserve basic civil rights and the freedom to live free of fear, hate and discrimination. As a woman, mother, and daughter of immigrants, she knows that a community cannot thrive without supporting diverse identities and experiences. Maria will fight to ensure that federal policies reflect her commitment to equity, inclusion and support for all.

CHIRLA's Congressional District 34

Candidate Name: Jimmy Gomez

Biography: I was elected to the California State Assembly in 2012 and reelected in 2014 and most recently in 2016 with over 86 percent of the vote to represent California's 51st Assembly District, which includes Northeast Los Angeles and unincorporated East Los Angeles.

In the Assembly, I am a national champion on Paid Family Leave and authored and passed landmark legislation, Assembly Bill 908, the nation's most progressive expansion of Paid Family Leave that President Obama hailed as a model for Congress. The legislation expanded California's Paid Family Leave program to work for all who pay into it and allow those on the lowest rungs of the state's economic ladder to afford the very program they help to fund.

I have also authored legislation to address public health, environmental justice, water conservation, access to education, domestic violence and sexual assault prevention, campaign finance disclosure in the wake of Citizens United, LGBTQ rights and affordable housing. In only my second term, I served as Chair of the powerful Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Born and raised in Southern California, I am the youngest of six children. My parents and four siblings immigrated to California from Mexico in the early 1970's. They brought with them a strong sense of family and a strong work ethic. To make ends meet, my mother and father often worked multiple jobs.

My parent's struggle to care for our family while trying to provide in times of illness and emergency, was the inspiration behind my Paid Family Leave legislation. Strengthening families by improving access to education and healthcare and protecting the rights of workers has been a driving force behind many of my legislative efforts.

I live in Eagle Rock with my wife Mary, and dog Austin.

Money Fundraised to Date: I have a six figure budget, we are well on our way to meeting our goal. Most of our money comes from individual donors.

Endorsements: California Democratic Party, Planned Parenthood Action Fund, United Farm Workers of America, U.S. Senator Kamala Harris, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti, California Treasurer John Chiang, California State Controller Betty Yee, Senate President Pro tem Kevin de Leon, Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda Solis, Senator Ricardo Lara.

Campaign Contact Information: David Keith, Campaign Manager: 323-452-2915, davidkeith@jimmygomezforcongress.com.

Issues

Immigration: I'm the proud son of immigrants and their struggles gave me the opportunity to be who I am today. Immigrants are our family members, friends, neighbors, caregivers, teachers, physicians, farmers, inventors and more. In Congress, I will fight to protect our families and immigrants, undocumented or otherwise.

Education: After graduating from high school, I found work at a fast-food restaurant and a local superstore working from 5pm to 9am the next day. I soon saw the value of a good quality education and a job with benefits. I enrolled in community college and ultimately transferred to UCLA, where I graduated and later earned a Master's in Public Policy from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. I know first-hand how important quality education is and will fight to ensure that this new administration does not cut funding for early education, special education programs, and low-income students.

Housing: Los Angeles needs more housing, especially affordable and workforce housing, and I support development around public transit corridors, while protecting against displacement.

Healthcare: The Affordable Care Act is under threat and we cannot wait for it to be repealed to make sure Californians have health care coverage. That is why I have signed onto Senator Ricardo Lara's bill as a coauthor to create a single-payer healthcare system in California. In Congress, I will continue to support single payer healthcare.

Labor: Prior to being elected to the Assembly, I served as Political Director of the United Nurses Associations of California. I have stood with my labor brothers and sisters in fights for a living wage, education access, healthcare access, reproductive rights and worker's rights.

Diversity and Inclusion: The 34th Congressional District is easily one of the most culturally rich and diverse districts in the State, perhaps even the Country. Our nation is founded on the idea that diversity and inclusion make us stronger. That is why I passed a resolution denouncing Trump's contentious executive order imposing new limits on refugees and other immigrants. I believe that this executive order does not improve our national security, but actually weakens it.

Nombre del candidato: Jimmy Gomez

CHIRLA's Congressional District 34

Biografía: Fui elegido a la Asamblea del Estado De California en 2012, reelegido en 2014 y más recientemente en 2016 con más de 86 por ciento del voto para representar el distrito 51, cual incluye el Nordeste De Los Ángeles y áreas perteneciendo a el Condado de Los Ángeles en el Este.

Soy el autor de la AB 908, cual proporciona la expansión del Permiso Familiar Pagado más progresista en la Nación, y cual President Obama llamó un modelo para los Estados Unidos. La legislación extiende el beneficio en tal manera que los trabajadores de bajos recursos también puedan tomar provecho del programa.

También soy el autor de legislación para promover la salud pública, la justicia del medio ambiente, conservación de agua, acceso a la educación, elecciones limpias, derechos LGBT, vivienda asequible, y para prevenir el abuso sexual y la violencia doméstica. También tuve el privilegio de dirigir la poderosa Comité de Apropiación en mi segundo término en oficina.

Nacido y creado en el Sur de California, soy el más joven de seis niños. Mis padres y cuatro hermanos emigraron de México en los primeros años de los 1970's. Ellos valoraban la familia y el trabajo, y frecuentemente trabajaron en varios empleos para sostener a la familiar.

La lucha de mis padres para proveer para la familia en tiempos de enfermedad y emergencia fue mi inspiración para la legislación de Permiso Familiar Pagado. Otra prioridad mía es luchar para el acceso a educación y cuidado de salud y para los derechos de los trabajadores. Desde mi punto de vista, estas iniciativas son importantes para fortalecer a la familia.

Vivo en Eagle Rock con mi esposa Mary y mi perro Austin.

Fondos Hasta La Fecha: Estoy en la pista para cumplir con mi objetivo. La mayoría de mis fondos vienen de donantes particulares.

Respaldos: Partido Demócrata de California, Fondo De Accion de Planned Parenthood, Trabajadores de Granja Unidos (UFW), Senadora Kamala Harris, Eric Garcetti, Alcalde de Los Angeles, Tesorero de California John Chiang, Contralor de California Betty Yee, Kevin De Leon, Presidente del Senado De California, Anthony Rendon, Portavoz del Asamblea de California, Hilda Solis, Supervisora del Condado de Los Angeles, Senador Estatal Ricardo Lara.

Contacto: David Keith, Manejador de Campaña, (323) 452-2915, davidkeith@jimmygomezforcongress.com.

Temas

Inmigración: Soy hijo orgulloso de dos inmigrantes, y sus luchas me dieron la fortaleza para ser quien soy hoy. Inmigrantes son nuestros miembros de familia, nuestros amigos, vecinos, nuestros maestros, doctores, granjeros, inventores y más. Estoy dispuesto a luchar para todas las familias en el Congreso, sin respeto a su estatus migratorio.

Educación: Encontre trabajo en un restaurante de comida rápida el dia despues de graduarme de la preparatoria. Eso es cuando entendí el valor de la educación, y por eso empecé clases en el colegio comunitario, y eventualmente fui graduado de la UCLA, y después estudié mi maestría en Política Pública de la escuela John F. Kennedy en Harvard. Conozco el valor de la educación de primera mano y luchare en contra de Presidente Trump en caso de que el busque a recortar los fondos para acceso a la educación.

Vivienda: Los Angeles necesita más alojamiento, especialmente vivienda asequible y vivienda para trabajadores. Estoy en favor del desarrollo sobre corredores de transporte publico, mientras protegemos contra desplazamiento.

Cuidado de Salud: La Acta de Cuidado de Salud Asequible está bajo ataque y no podemos esperar hazia que se revoque para asegurarnos que los Californianos tengan cuidado de salud. Por eso yo firme como Coautor a la legislación del Senador Lara para crear un sistema de salud universal en California. En Congresso continuaré apoyando a cuidado de salud universal.

Sindicatos Públicos: Antes de ser elegido a la Asamblea, fui Director Político para las Enfermeras Unidas de California. Apoyo a mis hermanos y hermanas en la lucha para salarios dignos, acceso a educación y cuidado de salud, derechos reproductivos, y derechos laborales.

Diversidad e Inclusión: El Distrito Congressional 34 es fácilmente uno de los distritos más diversos y culturalmente ricos en el estado, quizá en todo el país. Nuestro país fue fundado con la idea que diversidad e inclusión nos hacen más fuertes. Por eso yo soy autor y pase un resolución condenando a las acciones contenciosas de Trump imponiendo límites en refugiados y otros inmigrantes. Yo creo que esa orden ejecutiva debilita a nuestra seguridad.

CHIRLA's Congressional District 34

Candidate Name: Kenneth Mejia

Biography: Kenneth is a 26-year-old Filipino-American who ran for this seat during the 2016 Democratic Primary as a write-in candidate receiving 1,177 write-in votes. Born and raised in the city of Los Angeles by a single mother who immigrated from the Philippines, Kenneth owes much of his success and motivation in life to his mother. Kenneth graduated college in 2.5 years at the age of 20 and also received his Certified Public Accounting (CPA) License to practice public accounting in the state of California when he was 22. In addition, Kenneth is a community organizer, organizing food and supply drives for those living on the streets of Skid Row & MacArthur Park and educating people on the issues of healthcare, gentrification, immigration, and electoral reform through meetings, marches, and rallies.

Money Fundraised to Date: \$23,000

Endorsements: Green Party Presidential Candidate Jill Stein (2012 & 2016), Green Party of the United States, Green Party of California, Green Party of Los Angeles County, Central LA Greens, Eastside Greens, Northeast LA Greens, Progressive Asian Network for Action

Campaign Contact: Kenneth Mejia (818) 800-7231. Kennethmejiaforcongress@gmail.com. Mejia4Congress.com

Immigration: Our campaign will fight for Immigration as a RIGHT. Full Legal Status for ALL immigrants, citizenship for DREAMers, healthcare for ALL immigrants, right to counsel, whistleblower protections, ending for-profit detention centers, lessening the burden of proof for asylum seekers, ensuring immigration courts are sufficiently staffed and funded, and ending the 3 to 10-year bar.

Education: Our campaign will fight for Education as a RIGHT. Tuition free public college & university regardless of income, cancellation of \$1.3 trillion outstanding of student debt, protecting public schools from privatization and improving public education, ending the school to prison pipeline, taking care of our educators with better pay and benefits, and providing universal pre-k and head start.

Housing: Our campaign will fight for Housing as a RIGHT. We will fight for more affordable AND low-income housing (especially extremely low-income housing) nationwide, public housing (just like they have successfully done in Europe), stopping gentrification by working with state and local governments so that there must be mandatory community approval, universal rent control limited to 3% nationwide, stopping illegal evictions, enforcing tenants' rights, and giving homeowner assistance.

Healthcare: Our campaign will fight for Healthcare as a RIGHT. We are the only major industrialized nation to not guarantee healthcare. We will fight for a Medicare for ALL Single Payer system which will guarantee healthcare and prescription drugs to all Americans. We will fight to also control price gouging of prescription drugs. We will also fight to find the cure to cancer by investing more federal funds into cancer research, one of the top causes of death in America.

Labor: Our campaign will fight for labor and workers' rights. A \$15 federal indexed minimum wage, protecting collective bargaining efforts, pensions, rights to unionize, & opposing right to work laws. We are for comprehensive benefits including guaranteed healthcare and 12 weeks paid family & medical leave. We also will fight for 30-hour work weeks (countries in Europe work less than 30 hours), a guaranteed Basic Income of \$12,000 a year, a job guarantee program, & creating 20 million new jobs to rebuild our crumbling infrastructure and move to 100% clean renewable energy by 2030.

Diversity and Inclusion: At a time when our civil rights are under attack by a conservative government and Donald Trump, we must ALL stand united ready to resist and to fight back against any form of oppression, bigotry, xenophobia, sexism, or racism. What makes America great is our diversity, our culture, and our differences. To be able to be the most diverse country on Earth is why we are the wealthiest and most industrialized nation on earth. We must treat each other with respect, compassion, and with dignity regardless of the color of one's skin, their gender identity, who they love, or what faith someone practices. We will fight for Racial Justice, Women's, LGBTQ's, & Native Rights, and religious liberties!

CHIRLA's Congressional District 34

CHIRLA's Congressional District 34

Candidate Name: Robert Lee Ahn

Biography: I am native of the district. I am a public interest attorney, fervent environmentalist and an entrepreneur.

Endorsements: Congressman Mike Honda, Former LA City Controller Rick Tuttle, and LGBT Activist Jason Collins.

Campaign Contact: David Meraz—Campaign Manager

David@ahnforcongress.com

Issues

Immigration: Beginning in the 1980's America has been blessed by the growing numbers of individuals and families coming into the Country from Central and North America. Immigrants have played a significant role in growing the economy. They've raised good children who have gone on to lead responsible, productive lives. Their many contributions to the United States get lost amidst arguments over whether someone is here "legally", and the demands to toss all undocumented individuals out because some percentage of those undocumented have committed crimes.

My parents are immigrants from South Korea. Our background stories might be different, but we all share one desire: To be seen as we truly are. To be acknowledged as decent human beings, working hard and contributing to the fabric that is America. To be allowed to live our lives without fear of interference from government.

I am committed to advocating and working for passage of legislation to provide amnesty to those already here. I recognize it's an uphill battle at this particular time – but now more than before, it's important that strong voices of reason prevail. I don't want to go to Congress to just be another "business as usual" politician – all talk. It is time to do the hard work necessary to get something positive done.

I would be the only Korean and the first Democratic Korean to serve in Congress. I would be very proud to receive support from my fellow immigrant community.

Education: One of my top priorities is to work to obtain federal funding for new remedial education programs to help children get up to speed in the classrooms. They need to have both the skills and the information necessary to succeed in the world. In too many instances, and for too long, we have failed our children. To continue down this road is shameful.

Housing: I am aware of the growing affordable housing shortage. I would urge the Legislature in Sacramento to seek solutions through incentives and grants. If monies are needed at the federal level, I would be supportive and instrumental.

Healthcare: Among my priorities is to play a role in ensuring that whatever legislation is written to replace or repeal the ACA that provisions are included that maintain affordable, quality health care for everyone. Any bill needs to include coverage for those with pre-existing conditions. There is also the issue of many doctors refusing to take Medicaid (MediCal in California) patients. This must be adequately addressed.

Labor: I support teachers and labor unions. I support increases in minimum wage, and divide workers right to organize.

Diversity and Inclusion: I am committed to supporting legislation that protects against discrimination for all people. I support diversity programs to enrich our schools, communities, and institutions.

CHIRLA's Congressional District 34

CHIRLA's Congressional District 34

Candidate Name: Vanessa Aramayo

Biography: I am the product of Glendale public schools. My husband and I are natives to the community, we are currently raising our two daughters in Eagle Rock. I'm the daughter of a single mom who came to this country from Mexico to seek a better life. I went to UCLA and worked multiple jobs to pay for school, earning a BA in Political Science. After college, I made a decision to work where I could help people, families, children and improve the socio-economic standing of my community. I've led non-profits focused on immigrant rights and fighting poverty. I know how to organize. I've held senior staff positions in Congress and for the State Assembly. I know how government works. I fought against Arnold Schwarzenegger AND Jerry Brown on behalf of low income and immigrant communities.

Money Fundraised to Date: I have met my fundraising goals which allow me to hire staff and reach special election voters. Funds raised will be reported on campaign financial disclosure forms as required by the FEC.

Endorsements: Former Member of Congress Jane Harman, Former California State Assembly Majority Leader Dario Frommer, Numerous Community Leaders.

Campaign Contact Information: vanessa.aramayo@vanessaforcongress.com (323) 487-9464 Cell: (818) 632-5501

Issues

Immigration:

On January 19th, I joined thousands of people in LA to protest Donald Trump and stand with supporters of immigrant rights.

I OPPOSE executive orders prohibiting all refugees worldwide from entering the US and on Green-card holders, work visas and immigrants from the seven Muslim majority countries; that's not who we have been as a country that is not who are and that is not what we want to be in the future. I expect to oppose the so-called revised executive order to be issued by President Trump.

I OPPOSE a plan to deport immigrant families and DREAMERS – tearing families apart is not a solution. Our system is broken and needs fixing, our laws are inadequate and also need fixing. I OPPOSE the new orders from Homeland Security Director Kelly on expanding deportation to all undocumented immigrants, including lawfully abiding immigrants with family members, including children, who are American citizens. I OPPOSE Trump's plan to cut federal funding to Sanctuary cities and will stand with California leaders to stop any cuts in federal funding.

Education

Education is a top priority. I would like to serve on the *Education and the Workforce Committee* in Congress and be seated on the *Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education* sub-committee.

I have supported and organized for funding for public education in California as well as starting a program that identified and mentored at risk youth who showed academic talent to increase their acceptance to the UC system by 90% and another program that secured college scholarships for undocumented students.

As the Executive Director of California Partnership's, Center for Community Change, I helped mobilize community support to pass Prop 30 which raised \$6 billion/year for K-12, Vocational and Community Colleges.

I do not support funding of unregulated anti-union charter schools, many of which are for-profit, lack any resemblance of transparency and whose record of improving student performance is sketchy at best. Having attended public schools in Glendale—grade, middle and high school, my support for public education runs deep. Federal dollars for public education are scarce, and given the pro charter/pro private/pro parochial school reputation of the “tie breaking” Secretary of Education DeVos, the resources will be harder to secure for public schools. I am not opposed to all charter schools, as long as they are regulated, transparent, friendly to collective bargaining representation and have a proven record of delivering quality educational alternatives. For instance, some performance arts charter schools have been good fits for parents and

CHIRLA's Congressional District 34

students and should remain as options.

Housing:

We have an affordable housing shortage. I support high density, transit/bike/pedestrian friendly development that include affordable housing components. Integrating development and transportation plans make cities more liveabl. Dense, transit friendly developments placed near employers throughout metropolitan areas is not only smart urban planning but it also creates jobs—high tech, manufacturing and construction— for the future from high density urban in-fill LEEDS certified developments, to transit infrastructure to clean vehicles.

In addition, I would seek to start a “Housing Trust Fund” where the Department of Housing could back affordable housing loans. There is an exceptional model in Burbank that is could be replicated, where a local housing trust backs loans for affordable housing surrounded by amenities such as child care, workforce training and after school programs.

Healthcare:

I support a single payer, government sponsored universal health care planl. Given the Trump Administration's and Republican Congress' “repeal and replace Obamacare” mantra, there may be an opening for states to pass their own single-payer system and I support the plan recently introduced in Sacramento. I will continue to push for single-payer, but given the dire threat that attacks on the ACA will have on access to affordable health care on the exchange, and just as alarming, threats to the expansion of Medicaid coverage, my first focus will be to fight attacks on health care access, Medicaid and Medicare. Republicans are currently in disarray on what to do with the ACA and what any repeal may mean to access and plan choice. This certainly is an opportunity to bring voices of patients, constituents, nurses and health care providers to the table to push for a guaranteed universal coverage plan. We need to preserve coverage established by the ACA: no pre-existing conditions barriers, no lifetime cap on coverage, addiction and mental health coverage, staying on parents plan up to age 26 and measures to control cost and reward quality, not quantity of care.

The second committee I would request to serve on is *Energy and Commerce* where I would serve on the Health Subcommittee to be at the forefront of the fight to preserve access to quality, affordable health care. In addition, there is a Health, Employment, Labor and Pension subcommittee on Education and the Workforce committee where I would focus on health care as it relates to the workplace.

Labor:

See previous answers on committee assignments where I would serve on the Education and the Workforce committee. The federal minimum wage needs to be raised and government contractors must honor paying a living wage. Labor laws need to be enforced and strengthened, not dismantled as the Trump Administration has called for. I will stand with working people to ensure workplace safety, fair wages and benefits. In addition, we need to extend, and raise, tax credits for solar and wind energy, including both commercial and residential use. One of the biggest increases in jobs, including high tech, manufacturing and blue collar installation is in clean green energy technologies. Also, I support infrastructure building, that does not privatize public assets, including public transit, water, sewer, dams, airports, bridges and roads.

Diversity and Inclusion:

I grew up in the community and know deep down in my roots how diversity and inclusion has built a better community and a better nation. We need to engage in the courts, Congress and in the streets to protect all of our peoples civil rights. From expansion of ICE raids to the rescinding of bathroom access for transgender students, we need to be vigilant in fighting for our rights and standing up for everyone.

CHIRLA's Congressional District 34

Candidate Name: Wendy Carrillo

Biography:

Wendy Carrillo is the very embodiment of the American Dream.

Born in El Salvador during the country's violent civil war, Wendy's family took refuge in America. Hers is a story that is all too familiar in California's 34th district—hard worker, dedicated sister, labor activist and formerly undocumented woman.

A lifelong resident of Boyle Heights and City Terrace, Wendy worked her way through East LA College, Cal State LA and USC where she earned a Masters in Journalism. She's a product of public schools including Roosevelt High School, El Sereno Middle School and Harrison Elementary.

Wendy has worked tirelessly to advance progressive values, taking to heart her family's commitment to hard work and giving back to the community. Whether protesting at Standing Rock or fighting for labor rights, Wendy's not afraid to roll up her sleeves and fight for what's right.

Endorsements:

- Lucy Flores, former Nevada State Assembly Member and Our Revolution board member
- Representative Angelica Rubio, New Mexico House of Representatives
- Michael Blake, New York State Assembly Member and candidate for DNC Vice Chair
- Cristela Alonzo, Stand-up comedian, actress, writer, and producer
- Big Boy, POWER 106FM and nationally syndicated radio host
- Delia Garcia, member of Latina Initiative at EMILY's List, co-founder of the National Latina Legislative Caucus and Latin@ Young Elected Officials Caucus, and the first Latina ever elected to the Kansas legislature
- Elmy Bermejo, Latina Initiative, EMILY's List

Issues

Immigration: To Wendy, 11 million people is not just an abstract figure, they are 11 million stories. Stories of resilience, of Dreamers and their families who wanted a better life for their children. She has a deep and unique understanding of immigrant rights—because she's lived it. Our nation was founded by immigrants, and today that tradition is under attack. Wendy will work tirelessly to make sure we Americans are true to our tradition of welcoming immigrants, that nobody is turned away because of their religion and that undocumented immigrants can finally come out of the shadows with a path to full and equal citizenship.

Education: College is more than just a degree, it's a ticket out of poverty, and more needs to be done to strengthen our education system. A proud graduate of our local public schools, Wendy was the first person in her family to go to college. She believes that no student should take on crushing debt in order to get a college degree and will fight to make public colleges and universities tuition-free—regardless of immigration status.

Housing: The 34th Congressional District is facing an affordable housing crisis. Home to the nation's largest homeless population, too little has been done to support the most vulnerable among us. Our communities also deserve respect: The families who have been here for generations deserve to be able to stay in the neighborhoods they call home. As a new homeowner in the district, Wendy knows first-hand the challenges of buying a home. But she also knows the dignity and pride that comes with buying your first home—an experience that more Angelinos should experience.

Healthcare: Our healthcare system is broken. Despite the progress under the Affordable Care Act, too many Americans remain uninsured or underinsured. Many prescription drugs remain out-of-reach for vulnerable Americans. We can do better—and that starts by improving on the Affordable Care Act, protecting and expanding Medicare and respecting and funding women's comprehensive reproductive healthcare.

Labor: No person who works full-time should have trouble putting food on the table. While the state of California has made significant progress and passed a \$15 minimum wage, it should be the standard nationwide. Worker protection, including overtime pay, the ability to join a union without fear of harassment, and the right to collective bargaining are at the core of Wendy's plan.

Diversity and inclusion: The ability to recognize the beauty of our diversity, to see it as a strength rather than a weakness, strikes at the heart of what it means to be part of the melting pot that is America. Legislation like the Equality Act, that prohibits discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation in employment, housing, education, credit, jury services and federally-funded programs, needs to be passed. Police departments also need to be offered diversity and inclusion training to better understand the communities they protect.

Nombre del candidato: Wendy Carrillo

CHIRLA's Congressional District 34

Biografía:

La historia de Wendy Carrillo es la historia del sueño americano.

Nacida en El Salvador durante la violenta guerra civil, su familia se refugió en los Estados Unidos. Su experiencia es común en el distrito 34 de California, es trabajadora, hermana dedicada, activista laboral y por mucha de su vida fue indocumentada.

Residenta de toda la vida de Boyle Heights y City Terrace, Wendy trabajo para pagar sus estudios en East LA College, Cal State LA y USC donde se graduó con un masters en periodismo. Estudio en las escuelas públicas locales incluyendo Roosevelt High School, El Sereno Middle School y Harrison Elementary.

Wendy ha trabajado sin parar para avanzar las ideas progresistas, inspirada por lo que le enseñó su familia: que siempre hay que trabajar duro y apoyar a la comunidad local. Wendy es una luchadora que no tiene miedo de hacer todo lo necesario para lograr lo correcto. Ha luchado al lado de los indígenas en Standing Rock y por los derechos laborales siempre sin dudar en luchar por lo correcto.

Respaldos:

- Lucy Flores, ex-representante de la Asamblea del estado de Nevada, miembro del consejo de *Our Revolution*
- Representante Angelica Rubio, Miembro de la Asamblea del estado de Nuevo México
- Michael Blake, Miembro de la Asamblea del estado de Nueva York, candidato para vicedirector del Comité Nacional Demócrata
- Cristela Alonzo, Comediana, actriz, escritora y productora
- Big Boy, POWER 106FM y anfitrión de radio nacionalmente sindicado
- Delia Garcia, miembro de la iniciativa Latina en EMILY's list, co-fundadora del caucus nacional de legisladoras latinas y la primera latina de ser elegida al Asamblea estatal de Kansas.
- Elmy Bermejo, Iniciativa Latina, EMILY's list

Temas

Inmigración: Para Wendy, 11 millones no es una figura abstracta. Para ella, son 11 millones de historias y experiencias. Son historias de resistencia, de sueños, de familias que quieren una vida mejor para sus hijos. Entiende los temas y preocupaciones de los inmigrantes porque lo ha vivido. Nuestro país fue fundado por inmigrantes y hoy esa tradición está siendo atacada. Wendy luchará para que somos fieles a nuestra tradición de darle la bienvenida a los inmigrantes, que nadie sea rechazado por su religión y que los indocumentados puedan salir de las sombras con un camino hacia la ciudadanía.

Educación: La universidad no solo brinde un título, es una manera de salir adelante y fuera de la pobreza. Tenemos que hacer más para fortalecer nuestro sistema educativo. Wendy fue una de las primeras personas en su familia de asistir a la universidad. Es orgullosa de haberse graduada de las escuelas públicas locales. Cree que ningún estudiante debería asumir una deuda estudiantil para lograr un título y hará todo lo posible para que las matrículas para las universidades públicas sean gratis sin importar el estatus migratorio.

Vivienda: Falta viviendo asequible en el 34 distrito. Estamos enfrentando una crisis, la población más grande de personas sin hogar viven en el distrito y poco ha sido hecho para proteger los más vulnerables. Nuestras comunidades también merecen respeto: Las familias que han estado aquí por generaciones merecen de quedarse en las casas que consideran su hogar. Wendy sabe lo difícil que es de comprar una casa, recién se compro una en el distrito. Pero también conoce el orgullo que se siente cuando uno compra su primer casa—una experiencia que más angelinos deberían poder sentir.

Salud: Nuestro sistema de salud está quebrado. Aún hubo progreso gracias a la Ley de Salud Asequible (ACA por sus siglas en inglés) demasiadas personas no tienen seguro médico y otros no tienen cobertura de calidad. Muchos medicamentos son demasiado caros para los que lo necesitan. Podemos mejorar el sistema mejorando la Ley de Salud Asequible, protegiendo y expandiendo Medicare y respetando y dándole recursos a la salud reproductiva.

Trabajo: Ninguna persona que trabaja a pleno tiempo debería tener dificultades proveyendo para su familia. Aunque el estado de California ha subido el salario mínimo a 15 dolares por hora, debería ser el estándar en toda la nación. Asegurando que los trabajadores tengan acceso a pago por tiempo extra y la habilidad de unirse a un sindicato sin miedo de repercusiones además de tener el derecho de la negociación colectiva son el enfoque del plan laboral de Wendy.

Diversidad e inclusión: La habilidad de reconocer la belleza de nuestra diversidad y de verlo como algo favorable en vez de una debilidad es un valor fundamental de nuestro país. Legislación como el Acto de Igualdad que prohíbe discriminación por la identidad de género y orientación sexual en trabajo, vivienda, educación, crédito, jurados y programas fundados por el gobierno federal tiene que ser pasado. Los departamentos de policia tambien necesitan entrenamiento para mejor entender las comunidades que protegen.

CHIRLA's Congressional District 34

Candidate Name: Melissa "Sharkie" Garza

Biography: Melissa Garza, known as "Sharkie" to her closest friends, is a 38 year-old Mexican-American filmmaker, entrepreneur, and Democrat who grew up in Anaheim, CA. After graduating California State University, Fullerton, she earned her MFA in Film Production from Chapman University, in Orange, CA. She worked in the visual effects industry on the films Avatar, Tron: Legacy, Night at the Museum 2, and The Adventures of Tintin. She also worked on the family friendly theme park attractions Donkey Live!, Dora & Diego's 4D Adventure Catch that Robot Butterfly, and Madagascar: A Crate Adventure. She has been living in Koreatown, Los Angeles since 2011. In addition to her work on big budget Hollywood films and high profile theme park attractions, Sharkie has worked on Public Service Announcements for the California State Health Department's Non-Smoking Initiative, The LA River, and Kuumba Schule--a non-profit learning academy which nurtures creativity and emotional IQ within children. Throughout her career she has advocated for children and young adults to further their education in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM). She is tenacious, resilient, and knows how to keep moving forward--just like a shark!

Money Fundraised to Date: \$85.00 since 2/18/2017

Endorsements: None Yet

Campaign Contact Information: Melissa@SharkieForCongress.com Business Phone (323) 405-1317

Issues

Immigration: Comprehensive immigration reform is needed. We should streamline the bureaucratic process of becoming a permanent resident that leads to a pathway to citizenship. A modern day Dream Act should be passed and DACA should be the first phase in a proper path to citizenship for those dreamers.

Education: We need a more comprehensive education system that is focused on nurturing a child's individual gifts and teaching them emotional intelligence. Also, we should also be teaching self-defense and or a martial art in school to help better prepare our kids to defend for themselves into adulthood. Adulthood classes should also be taught.

Housing: More affordable housing should be created with the community in mind. The cost of living is way too high nowadays as rents are increasing and the ability to own a home becomes harder. We need research nonconventional living arrangements in an attempt to see what other models may work for our city.

Healthcare: Medicare for all should be a human right. All people in America should be covered. It is crucial that we need to negotiate lower drug prices with big pharma. At this time we also need to protect the Affordable Care Act at all costs, since we cannot back peddle on the health of our nation and loved ones. Mental health care is super important as well. We need to make sure our that people get the proper care they need when issues arrive.

Labor: Our unions are crucial to the local economy in Los Angeles. In addition, union workers should not be making less than minimum wage after union dues are paid. We also need to push for an increase in the federal minimum wage to accommodate for inflation. Woman should receive equal pay for equal work and experience of their male counterparts.

Diversity and Inclusion: It is imperative that we have more diversity in the workplace and beyond. We should be inclusive to others and be tolerant of their beliefs and personal choices they make in regards to their lifestyle. When we have more diversity we create a more open thought processes with people from different backgrounds working towards a common goal.

CHIRLA's Congressional District 34

Nombre del candidato: Melissa "Sharkie" Garza

Temas

Inmigración: Es necesario una reforma migratoria. Debemos cortar el proceso burocrático de la residencia permanente y apoyar un camino hacia la ciudadanía para los inmigrantes indocumentados. Apoyo un legislación moderno del DREAM ACT y que DACA deberá ser la primera fase en un camino hacia la ciudadanía para aquellos DREAMERS.

Educación: Necesitamos un sistema de educación más integral que se enfatiza en los dones individuales de cada estudiante y enseñarles inteligencia emocional. Además, también debemos estar enseñando autodefensa y /o un artes marciales en la escuela para ayudar a preparar mejor a nuestros niños a defenderse por sí mismos. Esto es en fin para preparar a los niños en ser adultos responsables. Las clases de la edad adulta también deben ser enseñadas.

Vivienda: Se debe crear una vivienda más asequible y tomar en cuenta las necesidades de la comunidad. Hoy en día, el costo de vida es demasiado alto debido a que las rentas han aumentado y es más difícil de comprar una casa. Necesitamos una investigar otros tipos de viviendas en un intento de ver qué otros modelos pueden funcionar para nuestra ciudad.

Salud: En mi opinión, el cuidado de salud es un derecho humano y por eso Medicare debe ser para todos. Toda la gente en los estados unidos debe tener cobertura de salud. Necesitamos que negociamos los precios más bajos a los medicamentos con las grandes farmacéuticas. En este momento también necesitamos proteger a Obamacare a toda costo, ya que no podemos dar marcha atrás sobre la salud de nuestra nación y nuestros seres queridos. La atención de la salud mental también es muy importante también. Necesitamos asegurarnos de que la gente obtenga el cuidado apropiado que necesitan cuando llegan problemas de salud.

Labor: Nuestros uniones son cruciales para la economía local en Los Ángeles. Además, los trabajadores sindicalizados no deben ganar menos que el salario mínimo después de que se paguen las cuotas sindicales. También necesitamos impulsar un aumento en el salario mínimo federal para acomodar la inflación. Las mujeres deben recibir un salario igual por trabajo que a los hombres.

Diversidad e inclusión: Es muy importante que haya más diversidad en el trabajo y en nuestras vidas cotidianas. Debemos incluir a los demás y ser tolerantes de sus creencias y decisiones personales. Cuando hay más diversidad, permitimos que la gente se convierten en pensadores críticos y abrimos con personas con diferentes orígenes trabajando hacia un objetivo común.

CHIRLA's Congressional District 34

Candidate Name: Steven Mac

Biography: I was born at French Hospital on Hill Street in Chinatown in 1981. My parents are ethnic Chinese who were refugees of war. I spent my youth in South Los Angeles and Chinatown. I graduated from UC Berkeley and the UCLA School of Law. I am currently a Deputy District Attorney for the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office, assigned as a felony prosecutor. Prior to becoming a prosecutor, I served in the U.S. Army. I started my military career as an Army intelligence officer and was selected to be the Company Commander of a counterintelligence unit. From 2012 to 2013, I deployed to the war in Afghanistan as a JAG officer in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. I have served in the U.S. Army Reserve for over 14 years and hold the rank of Major. As a JAG officer, I advised Brigadier Generals on congressional appropriations and oversight, federal laws and regulations on wartime power, investigations of senior officers, international law on treaties, and the federal code of ethics. I currently live in Highland Park.

Money Fundraised to Date: \$10,000

Endorsements: Steve Cooley

Campaign Contact Information: steven@macforcongress.com; (323) 825-1622; www.macforcongress.com; www.facebook.com/macforcongress

Issues

Immigration: Comprehensive Immigration Reform following the model of the 2013 Senate Immigration Reform Bill is vital to the economy and national defense. Mass deportation is immoral and unjust. I support pathways to citizenship, especially the DREAM Act and through military service.

Education: Public education is the foundation of a strong and productive society that fosters democratic ideals. We must support an education system that provides quality education that prepares students for college and/or advanced technical training for a new economy. Federal fund for education should primarily be used for a strong public education system.

Housing: I support increasing the supply of housing units throughout Los Angeles to decrease the cost of housing that has increased disproportionately to wages. On the federal level, I see housing as part infrastructure as it is interconnected with issues of transportation and city development. I want to federally fund plans that increase housing and plans that connect housing with where people work as a model for how world cities like LA should function.

Healthcare: Healthcare for its people should be a fundamental goal of government. Government should not take healthcare away from its citizens. I will defend against every attack on the Affordable Care Act and attacks on Medicare and Medi-cal. I want every person in Los Angeles to have access to preventative and acute treatment. I will work to increase the healthcare market place to lower rates and incentivizes participation in our healthcare systems.

Labor: Los Angeles has been losing high paying jobs. I will fight to use federal funding on research and training for our universities and technical training institutions as a mechanism to bring new economy employers into our district who want to employ qualified graduates. I also believe workers currently in our district have the right to organize to equalize bargaining power to ensure that our workers are protected against global market forces.

Diversity and Inclusion: Using difference to divide our country is a threat to the fabric of American democracy and the U.S. Constitution. To defend the U.S. Constitution is a hill to die on. I will represent all the people of this district to defend the principles of equality under the Constitution.

CHIRLA's Congressional District 34 Candidate Forum

CHIRLA's Congressional District 34 Candidate Forum

Candidate Name: Sandra Mendoza

Biography: Sandra is one of four children of a hardworking immigrant household, she grew up in the Westlake / Pico Union area of Los Angeles.

As part of her community, Sandra has dedicated countless hours volunteering her time to many causes that include education, the environment and civic engagement. She currently serves on the board of the Youth Policy Institute's charter schools, has contributed on the founding board for the Crown Jewel Club, a community outreach organization that teaches young women citizenship and etiquette. She has served on the Pico Union Neighborhood Council, the Olympic Station Community Police Advisory Board, the Boys and Girls Club of East LA, and the State Bar's Committee of Bar Examiners.

Sandra started her working career in the Los Angeles garment district. This is where she became acutely aware of the need for workers and management to work together to enhance workplace protections and true living wages and subsequently became a labor organizer. Sandra has also been part of municipal, state, national level political campaigns, as well as a union organizer.

Currently Sandra is finishing her Master in Public Administration from the University of Southern California (USC). She works in the public sector. She is a proud mother and grandmother and resides in Pico Union.

Campaign Contact Information: email – sandraforcongress@gmail.com, office – 323.825.9225

Issues

Immigration: As a naturalized citizen, in congress, I will fight to protect the rights of all the people of the district equitably. I will also be an advocate for immigrant rights including the DACA program.

Education: I support public education. Our children are our future, as such we must ensure that proper funding, skills and curriculum keep up with the times that teachers are provided for in their teaching environment.

Housing: The district needs responsible housing development that will assist in the housing shortage in metropolitan area, advocate for low income housing and affordable rents, including housing for the indigent community.

Healthcare: In Congress I will work to safeguard the Affordable Care Act and if there are any amendments, that I fight to safeguard health benefits for all, and that the key components of Obama Care carry forward.

Labor: I am a former union organizer and am a current union member (IBEW Local 11/EAA).

Diversity and Inclusion: I am committed to protecting the rights of all, including LGBT community, persons with disabilities, the indigent community, and the marginalized.

CHIRLA's Congressional District 34 Candidate Forum

Nombre del candidato: Sandra Mendoza

Biografía: Sandra es una de cuatro hijos de familia migrante trabajadora, Sandra creció en el área de Westlake / Pico Union de Los Ángeles.

Como parte de su comunidad, Sandra ha dedicado incontables horas ofreciendo su tiempo a muchas causas que incluyen educación, medio ambiente y participación cívica. Actualmente es miembro de la junta de las escuelas autónomas del Instituto de Política de la Juventud, ha contribuido en la junta de fundación para el Crown Jewel Club, una organización comunitaria que enseña a las mujeres jóvenes a la ciudadanía y la etiqueta. Ella ha servido en el Pico Union Neighborhood Council, en Olympic Station Community Police Advisory Board, en Boys and Girls Club of East LA y hasta un comité de la barra de California a nivel estatal.

Sandra comenzó su carrera laboral en la industria de confecciones en Los Ángeles. Aquí es donde ella se dio cuenta agudamente de la necesidad de que los trabajadores y la gerencia trabajarán juntos para mejorar las protecciones en el lugar de trabajo y los verdaderos salarios vitales. Sandra también ha sido parte de campañas políticas a nivel municipal, estatal y nacional, a sido organizadora sindicalista.

Actualmente Sandra está terminando su maestría en administración pública de la Universidad del Sur de California (USC); trabaja en el sector público; es una orgullosa madre y abuela y aún reside en la área de Unión Pico.

Temas

Inmigración: Yo inmigre a EEUU hace más de treinta años, llegue a vivir a este distrito que ahora busco a representar. Y voy a hacer lo posible luchar equitativamente por residentes del distrito, por la población del estado y por el bien de todos en este país. También voy al congreso a ayudar a proteger el programa de DACA que beneficie a nuestra juventud

Educación: Apoyo educación pública. Mi meta en este tema es proteger el sistema de educación pública y asegurar que el distrito recibo su parte justa de recursos, que proveamos recursos para profesores, y que este al día en tecnología.

Vivienda: El distrito necesita más vivienda, acceso a vivienda de rentas baja o reducidas y construcción con inteligencia tecnológica para contribuir positivamente al medio ambiente.

Salud: Voy al congreso a luchar por seguro de salud para todos. Si suceden cambios a Obama care, que mantengamos los beneficios claves que han salvado vidas y a yudado a miles de personas.

Labor: He sido organizadora laboral y soy miembro de unión (IBEW Local 11/EAA).

Diversidad y Inclusión: Como ciudadana naturalizada, voy a hacer todo lo posible por ayudar no solo a ciudadanos, si no también a dicha población que vive en las sombras y luchar por derechos a los pobres, población indigente, a personas de bajos recursos, y a inmigrantes. Además, es importante proteger los derechos de personas incapacitadas, personas de todo género.

CHIRLA's Congressional District 34 Candidate Forum

Candidate Name: Arturo Carmona

Biography:

Arturo Carmona is the Former National Deputy Political Director for Bernie Sanders' Presidential campaign and has nearly a 20-year career dedicated to social justice and public policy on behalf of working families. As Executive Director of Presente.org Arturo played an instrumental role in challenging President Obama on his massive deportation policies, and as Executive Director and co-founder of the Counsel of Mexican Federations (COFEM) he helped professionalize one of the country's largest and most effective immigrant self-help and civic engagement groups

Organizational Endorsements:

Roofers Union Local 36
California for Progress,
People for Bernie Sanders
The Political Revolution

Campaign Contact Information: Info@arturoforcongress.com; 323-723-2934

Issues

Immigration:

Many of the threats we are facing in the immigration front are not new, though they are much more deliberate and widespread. We must challenge all efforts meant to criminalize immigrants and their families. We must continue to intensify our fight for humane immigration policy reforms, which include a swift pathway to citizenship and now more than ever, we must focus on dismantling the inhumane deportation system and ensure due process for all.

Education:

Public education has and will continue to be the foundation of our democracy. We must ensure that our public schools receive the support they need to provide all students with the education they will need to compete in the modern economy. We must end the school-to-prison pipeline and ensure that all students have equal opportunities for success regardless of socio-economic backgrounds, race or class. I will fight to make tuition free at public colleges and universities throughout America because everyone in this country who wants to study and better themselves should be able to go to college regardless of their income.

Housing:

Wages for middle and working-class families have been in gradual decline for the past four decades and many families are unable to afford skyrocketing housing costs in LA and are being forced to move out. We must undergo an affordable housing revolution and ensure that all levels of government commit to mandating more development of affordable housing by developers. It is unacceptable that our elected officials allow developers to build new neighborhoods or gentrify our existing neighborhoods with high-priced homes and condo units that the average family cannot afford.

Healthcare:

We must guarantee health care as a right for all people living in this country. It's time for the U.S. to join every major industrialized country on Earth and provide universal health care to all by enacting a Medicare for all, single-payer health care system. We need to ensure that medical services are accessible by all people, including immigrants and refugees.

Labor:

We must work at all levels of government to protect the right to organize. We must never accept a system that tilts

CHIRLA's Congressional District 34 Candidate Forum

power dramatically towards the corporation and the 1%. Without strong unions, free to organize and advocate for the issues of workers and their families, we are likely to see the dramatic decline of our communities. We must ensure labor and wage theft protections for all workers including immigrant workers and day laborers

Diversity and Inclusion:

We must affirm the value and lives of people of color, work to close the wealth gap which continues to devastate Black and Brown communities and make voting easier for all by challenging the coordinated efforts to disenfranchise poor black and brown voters. These are symptoms of deep and abiding racial injustice in America. Our work is cut out for us, and we must always remember that issues of racial justice are intersectional and directly linked to issues of economic and environmental justice, immigration and women's rights. We cannot understand one without the other.

CHIRLA's Congressional District 34 Candidate Forum

Candidate Name: Tracy Van Houten

Biography:

Tracy Van Houten is a nationally recognized aerospace engineer for America's space program and mother of two young children who will bring a powerful, progressive voice to Congress. As the daughter of a schoolteacher, a proud product of California's public schools, and a mentor to hundreds of women, Tracy knows that strong neighborhood schools are the key to California's future prosperity. She is committed to providing our children and teachers with the resources they need to succeed in the classroom and beyond. Tracy will fight Trump's hateful agenda. She's committed to equality and social justice and is a proven LGBTQ ally. Tracy knows that women's rights are human rights and that the engine of American progress is fueled by immigrants. Her deep roots in science and technology make her uniquely qualified to meet the challenges our state faces in battling climate change, innovating water solutions, and modernizing our infrastructure and public transit system.

Tracy is a trailblazing progressive leader who is running to put her passion into action for Los Angeles. Vote Van Houten for Congress on April 4th.

Money Fundraised to Date: \$42,000

Endorsements: In progress.

Campaign Contact Information: Carolyn Riggs, Campaign Manager 323-499-8939

Issues

Immigration: We cannot allow for our immigrant communities to become fearful of the officials entrusted with ensuring the safety of our neighborhoods. We must fight to preserve programs that President Obama ushered in to protect families, students, and entrepreneurs. The presence and action of grassroots organizing is needed now more than ever to put pressure on Republican lawmakers to join Democrats in finding a solution to overhauling our broken immigration system. I promise to be an ally for groups fighting for immigration reform and to be a voice for them in Congress.

Education: As a mother to two young children and a mentor for young women in our schools, I know that strong neighborhood schools are the key to California's future prosperity. President Trump's nomination of Secretary DeVos was shameful and we must work together to provide our children and teachers with the resources they need to succeed in the classroom and beyond.

Housing: We do need more housing, and I support the smart growth of denser development. We need to work with local organizations that have the experience in working with our homeless populations. The top-down approach to addressing our homelessness issues is not working and is beyond just providing a roof over their heads. It includes making sure these residents have access to education, tools and resources to find their own path to success including sound employment and transportation options. Homelessness is not a singular issue but stretches across the socio-economic foundation of our communities, we must look at the larger landscape of our economy to appropriately address this issue.

Healthcare: Under the Obama Administration, we reached a historically low rate of uninsured Americans and have heard countless stories from people who would not be alive today without the Affordable Care Act. I will do everything in my power to make sure that we preserve health coverage for all. We cannot go back to a system

CHIRLA's Congressional District 34 Candidate Forum

that prevents individuals with pre-existing conditions from being able to receive life-saving health care coverage.

Labor: Los Angeles' diverse communities are under attack by President Trump and his administration. I will make sure that no matter the form or makeup of our families, country of origin, or income level, families will have a strong voice of support in Congress. I will stand up for all working families and support Labor's collective bargaining, paid family leave and fight for a federal minimum wage that is an actual living wage.

Diversity and Inclusion: I am completely committed to making sure that we do not move backwards in achieving equal rights for the LGBTQ community. Like most Americans, I was deeply disturbed and frustrated by the actions of GOP lawmakers in South Carolina to prevent transgender students from using bathrooms and locker rooms consistent with their gender identity. The current administration continues to undermine the protections and social progress that our country has made on this front, including this week's rollback of federal guidelines on transgendered students. I will proudly stand alongside the LGBTQ community and keep Trump and Pence accountable in Washington and in Los Angeles.

CHIRLA's Congressional District 34 Candidate Forum

Candidate Name: Yolie Flores

Biography: The daughter of immigrants, **Yolie Flores** is an advocate for children and families, education policy leader, former School Board Member, social worker, and longtime resident of CA-34. Yolie launched the first evidence-based parent leadership program in the nation for Latino immigrant parents, called Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors. Yolie was elected to the LAUSD Board of Education in 2007 and served 3 years as Vice President of the Board. Yolie ushered groundbreaking reform policies to engage parents as equal partners in the education of their children, improve student performance, protect early childhood and expand dual language opportunities. Prior to LAUSD, Yolie served for 8 years as the CEO of the Los Angeles County Children's Planning Council, and helped establish a "Safe Surrender" policy for the County of Los Angeles. Yolie earned her master's in Social Welfare from the University of California, Los Angeles, and has twice been named Social Worker of the Year in her region.

Money Fundraised to Date: \$180,000

Endorsements: Los Angeles School Police Association; LAUSD School Board Member Ref Rodriguez; Immigration Attorney Gloria Curiel; President of Families in Schools, Oscar Cruz; National Director of Abriendo Puertas, Sandra Gutierrez

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Issues

Immigration: If you came to this country seeking a better life for your family, and you work hard and follow the law, like my parents did, then you belong here. My father came to this country in the Bracero program, and I carry his story with me. It is morally wrong to tear families apart and separate children from their parents. We urgently need a pathway to citizenship for undocumented people in the US. I will stand up to Donald Trump and his racist policies including recent deportations and criminalizing all undocumented immigrants.

Education: Education is America's great equalizer; the pathway out of poverty, the ladder toward economic mobility, and the road to prosperity. It is the single-most powerful tool we have to ensure that we all reach our own American dream. As an elected member of the Los Angeles School Board, I worked to improve our schools and to give all children access to high-quality education. I also helped expand dual-language programs, so we could honor children's native language while learning English. I will fight to protect public education, to expand early childhood education, and to defend all students' rights.

Housing: Los Angeles has a housing crisis. Many families spend so much on their rent that they cannot afford the necessities, and too many families are becoming homeless. We need more permanent supportive housing in every neighborhood. In Congress, I will fight to restore 100,000 Section 8 Housing Vouchers that Congress has eliminated.

Healthcare: No one chooses to get sick, but too often the cost of health care is so high that it is an impossible burden for families. I was born with two serious health conditions, and if I didn't have access to care, I wouldn't be here today. I know that health care is a human right. That's why, as a School Board Member, I fought to restore full health benefits for cafeteria workers in schools. I will work to protect and expand the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid and Medicare.

Labor: The minimum wage set by the federal government is only \$7.25/hour. That is not enough to support a family. I support making the minimum wage a living wage. No one should work full time and still be afraid that they cannot put food on the table for their family. I believe that workers have a right to safe working conditions, job training, and to collectively bargain for their compensation. In Washington, I'll fight to raise the minimum wage to a living wage for all.

Diversity and Inclusion: This country is great because of its diversity. I am running for Congress because I believe that everyone deserves the chance at the American dream. We are a country of immigrants and refugees. Unfortunately, this American value is under attack. I will never stop fighting for people of color, for immigrants, for LGBT people, for civil rights and for children and families.

CHIRLA's Congressional District 34 Candidate Forum

Nombre del candidato: Yolie Flores

Temas

Inmigración: Si viniste a este país buscando una vida mejor para tu familia, y trabajas duro y sigues la ley, como hicieron mis padres, entonces perteneces aquí. Mi padre vino a este país en el programa Bracero, y yo llevo su historia conmigo. Es moralmente mal separar a las familias y separar a los hijos de sus padres. Necesitamos urgentemente un camino hacia la ciudadanía para los indocumentados en los Estados Unidos. Me enfrentaré a Donald Trump y a sus políticas racistas, incluyendo deportaciones recientes y la criminalización a todos los inmigrantes indocumentados.

Educación: La educación es el gran ecualizador de Estados Unidos; El camino fuera de la pobreza, la escalera hacia la movilidad económica y el camino hacia la prosperidad. Es la herramienta más poderosa que tenemos para asegurar que todos alcancemos nuestro propio sueño americano. Como miembro elegida de la Junta de Educación de Los Ángeles, trabajé para mejorar nuestras escuelas y dar a todos los niños acceso a educación de alta calidad. También ayudé a expandir los programas bilingües, para poder honrar el idioma nativo de los niños mientras aprendían inglés. Lucharé para proteger la educación pública, ampliar la educación en los años de la infancia y defenderé todos los derechos de los estudiantes.

Vivienda: Los Ángeles tiene una crisis de vivienda. Muchas familias gastan tanto en su renta que no pueden pagar las necesidades, y demasiadas familias se están convirtiendo en personas sin hogar. Necesitamos más viviendas de apoyo permanente en cada comunidad. En el Congreso, lucharé para restablecer 100,000 Cupones de Vivienda de la Sección 8 que el Congreso ha eliminado.

Salud: Nadie elige enfermarse, pero con demasiada frecuencia el costo de la atención de la salud es tan alto que es una carga imposible para las familias. Nací con dos condiciones de salud graves, y si no hubiera tenido acceso al cuidado, no estaría aquí hoy. Sé que el cuidado de la salud es un derecho humano. Por eso, como Miembro de la Junta de Educación, luché para restaurar los beneficios de salud completa para los trabajadores de las cafeterías en las escuelas. Trabajaré para proteger y ampliar la Ley del Cuidado de Salud a Bajo Precio, Medicaid y Medicare.

Labor: El salario mínimo establecido por el gobierno federal es de sólo \$ 7.25 por hora. Eso no es suficiente para mantener a una familia. Apoyo que el salario mínimo sea un salario con el cual se pueda sobrevivir. Nadie debe trabajar tiempo completo y todavía tener miedo de que no pueden poner comida en la mesa para su familia. Creo que los trabajadores tienen derecho a condiciones de trabajo seguras, capacitación laboral y negociar colectivamente su compensación. En Washington, lucharé para elevar el salario mínimo para todos a un salario con el cual se pueda sobrevivir.

Diversidad y Inclusión: Este país es magnifico por su diversidad. Me estoy postulando para el Congreso porque creo que todo el mundo merece la oportunidad al sueño americano. Somos un país de inmigrantes y refugiados. Desafortunadamente, este valor americano está siendo atacado. Nunca dejaré de luchar por las personas de color, por los inmigrantes, por las personas LGBT, por los derechos civiles y por los niños y las familias.

CHIRLA's Congressional District 34 Candidate Forum

Candidate Name: Raymond Meza

Biography: Raymond is an organizer. He has been a strong advocate for working people and the middle class from his youth to his current work at SEIU Local 721 and believes the best way to advocate for social justice is to build strong support for fundamental rights and values. Most recently working on the Fight for \$15 campaign, Raymond helped to lead the innovative campaign that not only resulted in the adoption of a \$15 minimum wage in cities, counties, and eventually the State of California, but also successfully reframed the debate and refocused the nation on economic inequality and the need to address widespread economic insecurity.

As far back as college, Raymond organized students to achieve tuition freezes a decade before today's campaign for free public higher education, access to higher education for undocumented immigrants long before state and national-level leaders recognized the need, and increased academic outreach to underrepresented communities in the aftermath of Proposition 209's devastating impact on students of color at the University of California. Throughout the years, Raymond has organized diverse groups around a broad range of issues with a steadfast commitment to equity, opportunity, and progressive policies to lift up workers and marginalized communities.

Raymond was born and raised in Montecito Heights in Northeast Los Angeles. He is the third generation of his family to live in the same working class neighborhood after his grandmother moved to Los Angeles during the Great Depression in search of economic opportunity for her family. She saved and purchased a home in 1956 that is still in the Meza family today. Raymond's passion for social justice was cultivated in the shared community values he grew up in while attending Eagle Rock Junior High School and John Marshall High School. He came out as gay at age 15 and was inspired by the compassion, love, and acceptance he received from his family and his community to become a strong advocate for others.

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Issues

Immigration: We must work together toward commonsense, humane immigration reform that keeps families together, protects deferred action programs and pathways for refugees, strengthens our economy, and puts immigrants on a path to citizenship.

Education: Education should be free. Raymond has been fighting for quality, free public education since he was a student organizer in college. Raymond helped lead the only successful campaign to freeze higher education tuition fees during the Republican Schwarzenegger Administration.

Housing: Southern California suffers from a major shortage of affordable housing. We must increase housing through smart, infill projects surrounding transit corridors to reduce rental costs and commute times and ensure that people can afford to live in the communities they were raised in.

Healthcare: Everyone should be able to see a doctor when they're sick. Now more than ever, we must stand together to protect the most vulnerable in our communities, and defend the gains we've made through the Affordable Care Act.

Labor: Our communities need good, middle-class jobs that can support a family. Major corporations are gaming the system and crushing our communities. It's imperative that we fight to build an inclusive economy that works for everyone, not just the wealthy few.

Diversity and Inclusion: We will fight to advance economic opportunity and social equality for people of color, women, workers, immigrants, students, people with disabilities, of different faiths, LGBT Americans, veterans--for ALL Americans. Raymond supports legislation to prohibit discrimination in all forms and across all aspects of life – from employment to housing. A proud member of the Latino and LGBT communities, he knows that our success together depends on our willingness to standing up for each other when under attack.

CHIRLA's Congressional District 34 Candidate Forum

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