

2022 Primary Election Candidate Questionnaire: Orange County Board of Supervisors District 4

SCANPH shared the following questions with the campaigns of all candidates running for Orange County Board of Supervisors District 4 in the June 7, 2022 primary election. We received the following responses from the campaigns of Doug Chafee and Sunny Park. We did not receive a response from the campaign of Steven Vargas. More information about voting in California is available at <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections>.

Question #1: Resistance to development in cities across California has provoked greater scrutiny of local land use planning. What future changes – if any – should be considered to improve affordable housing opportunities and change the status quo by evolving local control and state authority?

Doug Chafee: Requiring all new housing developments to have an inclusionary affordable housing requirement, providing additional project-based section 8 vouchers to help finance more affordable housing, and enforcing cities housing element requirements for affordable housing (RHNA) would increase the supply of affordable housing.

Sunny Park: For far too many, the cost of housing has become unsustainable. That's why I'll work to make sure we expand efforts to ensure affordable housing for families and working people across Orange County. We also need to cut red tape to expedite housing projects and rapidly increase housing supply so the county can better grapple with increasing housing demand, all while protecting our environment and open green spaces.

As Supervisor, I'll work with our state partners to advocate for more investments in Orange County and establish emergency housing and more transitional housing services for people recently experiencing homelessness. Additionally, the county must also do more to support and expand mental health and permanent housing services, as well as job-training opportunities, to address and reduce homelessness and keep people housed.

Question #2: Demand has long exceeded supply of affordable homes in California. That has never been more true than now. What is the #1 policy intervention you would advance to change this reality?

DC: I would require all housing projects to have an affordable housing inclusionary requirement.

SP: Allocation of the necessary dollars to approve new housing opportunities and motel conversions and build permanent supportive housing for homeless veterans and seniors

Question #3: Policy solutions require division of finite financial resources. How would you prioritize division of limited resources among prevention, shelter and permanent housing to address homelessness? What are the tradeoffs of short-term vs. long-term solutions and your preferred approach?

DC: All of these are important and must be kept in balance to address homelessness. We cannot have people living on the streets, but they cannot live permanently in shelters. The short-term solution takes people off the streets but does not solve the problem. If these elements are not kept in balance we will not solve homelessness.

(Over)

2022 Primary Election Candidate Questionnaire: Orange County Board of Supervisors District 4, continued

SP: We absolutely have the capacity to focus on and invest in both the short-term and long-term solutions. We use data to allocate funds to programs that yield results for our unhoused neighbors. We make swift decisions and get dollars to partners who are building homes not for profit, but to get people into housing where they feel safe and supported. My preferred approach is always what make sense for the city or neighborhood that is impacted. Each area of Orange County deserves the local control and targeted attention to meet the unique needs of their community.

The mission of the Southern California Association of Non-Profit Housing (SCANPH) is to facilitate affordable housing development across Southern California by advancing effective public policies, sustainable financial resources, strong member organizations, and beneficial partnerships.

For more information, contact Frank Martinez, Policy Director, at fmartinez@scanph.org.