

2022 Primary Election Candidate Questionnaire: U.S. House of Representatives, California's 42nd District

SCANPH shared the following questions with the campaigns of all candidates running for California's 42nd District in the U.S. House of Representatives in the June 7, 2022 primary election. We received the following responses from the campaign of Robert Garcia. We did not receive a response from the campaign of Cristina Garcia. 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?

Robert Garcia: I believe housing is a human right. During my time as both Councilmember and Mayor of Long Beach, I have fought hard to bring attention to the issue of affordable housing and provide increased funding and support for addressing the issue and creating more affordable housing in my district. As mayor, I have worked nonstop to establish nearly 13,000 new housing units across the city for families of all income levels. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, I quickly put a moratorium on evictions and worked to provide tens of millions of dollars in rental assistance relief to families in need, including the disproportionately affected communities of color and LGBTQIA communities. I've also worked to decrease the number of people experiencing homelessness by supporting affordable and inclusionary housing policies, streamlining development, implementing new transitional and permanent housing initiatives such as Project Homekey and Roomkey, and updated zoning to build new housing. Efforts like these can and must continue to be supported in the state – and at the federal level.

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?

RG: I am a huge believer in urbanism and during my time in office, have consistently advocated and enacted policies that increase affordable housing opportunities. I believe that one policy that is critical to changing our current reality both here in California and across the country is updating our zoning laws and upzoning. We need to prioritize building more housing units wherever possible and to make sure we're increasing housing accessibility for those that most need it. That's why I've been a supporter of SB 9 and SB 10 which will help alleviate the affordable housing crisis by easing perceived land use and California Environmental Quality Act barriers to increase density and streamline the production of multi-family housing development statewide.

(Over)

2022 Primary Election Candidate Questionnaire: U.S. House of Representatives, California's 42nd District, continued

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?

RG: Although I hear your concern about the importance of prioritizing financial resources, I also reject the premise that we must make a choice between short-term investment into shelters and immediately housing the unhoused and preventative, long term solutions with investments in affordable housing. When I addressed this issue in Long Beach, I worked to dramatically increase funding and resources to immediately house the unhoused in shelters, I also got to work building 13,000 new units of housing by emphasizing permanent, supportive housing through programs such as Project HomeKey. Under my leadership, Long Beach was awarded \$16.7 million dollars in funding to purchase and rehabilitate housing for production of low and very low income affordable units for people experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness.

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.