DoR SPECIAL ELECTION EDITION

Vote for Susan Bonilla May 19

Q&A with DoR-Endorsed State Senate Candidate Susan Bonilla

DoR emailed the following five questions to the Susan Bonilla campaign. Bonilla's written responses follow the questions.

DoR: What is the single biggest difference between you and your opponent?

Bonilla: I have a strong track record of effective leadership and bringing people together to get results for Contra Costa County families and small businesses. That's why I've been endorsed by the California Democratic Party and leaders like California Attorney General Kamala Harris, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson, former Congressman George Miller, and former Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan.

DoR: What progressive values drive your position on that difference?

Bonilla: I was raised in a family that put great value in helping others and public service. I became a teacher and have raised daughters who teach as well.

DoR: What single accomplishment are you proudest of in your many years in public life?

Bonilla: It's impossible to pick one, but I'm very proud of the work we did to expand Monument Impact to become a center for job training, protecting the Delta and opposing the twin tunnels, reforming the state's education funding formula to put more money into local schools while giving local districts and parents more control, and balancing budgets 13 years in a row.

DoR: In a nutshell, why is it critical that we keep our schools public and fend off attempts to privatize them?

Bonilla: Public education is a core part of the American dream; and ensuring that every child has access to a high quality public education is absolutely essential for the future of our State and the success of future generations.

DoR: With so many ongoing crises in our state, what gives you the single greatest hope for optimism in the coming years?

Bonilla: I'm optimistic because I know how great our State is and how amazing the people are. Seeing the innovation and the energy that drives young people in our communities give me great optimism despite the challenges we face.

President Jane Walter's Message

Susan Bonilla:
What Has She Really Done?

Susan Bonilla is a former high school teacher who won a seat on the Concord City Council and worked her way up the political ladder to become mayor of Concord and Contra Costa County supervisor. She is currently District 14 State Assemblywoman representing Contra Costa and Solano counties. She is now running against Steve Glazer for the District 7 State Senate seat. The Democrats of Rossmoor Board of Directors, while considering whether or not to endorse her, took a good look at Susan's record as a public official. We found that she has a long and impressive record of public service during which she worked tirelessly for Progressive causes.

In the Assembly, Susan is chair of the Assembly Business, Professions, and Consumer Protection Committee and sits on both the Assembly Health Committee and the Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee. She also chairs the Assembly Select Committee on increasing the integration of STEM education in California K-12 schools. She recently was appointed to the State Allocation Board, which apportions the remaining voter-approved California school construction bonds and addresses all policy issues put forward from school districts statewide; the board is also responsible for hearing and taking action on school appeals.

While serving in her local community, **Susan built and expanded job training programs and job creation efforts** and successfully helped residents get back to work during the recession. As a member of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors she created the Foster Youth Employment Program, which provides young people in the foster care system with county job opportunities. She developed partnerships to open the Michael Chavez Center for Economic Opportunity to provide job training for residents along Concord's Monument Corridor.

Working to balance consumer protection with small business needs, **she authored a bill that clarifies insurance coverage for transport-tation network companies** such as Uber and Lyft. This bill ensures that drivers and passengers are protected while still supporting the innovative ride-sharing model. Susan worked on legislation that establishes the highest safety standards for California industrial sites while protecting manufacturing jobs.

Susan has also authored historic legis-lation expanding health-care access for women and several public safety measures. The Message Therapy Reform Act works to eliminate human trafficking and prostitution from the massage industry. AB2560 and A1432 address child abuse cases in the public schools by ensuring that all credentialed school employees understand their reporting responsibilities and training them to identify child abuse and neglect.

Susan has a long history of advocating for the public schools. She was active in supporting transitional kindergarten and hopes to make preschool available to all children. She authored Assembly Bill 484, signed into law by Governor Brown in 2013. This law enables our schools to phase out outdated STAR testing and prepares students for better assessments that reflect the real-world knowledge needed for today's job market. Susan recently gained committee approval of a bill that establishes the Common
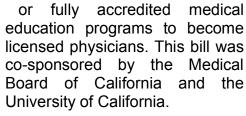
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and Next Generation Science Standards Implementation Fund, which together allocate $1 billion from the State's General Fund for educational resources, teacher support, and integration of technology in the classroom.

She also introduced a bill that establishes the California STEM AmeriCorps program, which is designed to improve the academic performance of K-12 student in STEM areas. As a leader for women's rights, Susan also authored AB2350, which requires universities to adopt policies to implement Title IX and protects the rights of pregnant graduate students. She recently introduced the College Opportunity Act, which reverses the proposed cuts to the Cal Grant program, which is the State's largest financial aid program.

Adding to her legislative accomplishments, **Susan led efforts to secure an additional $26.7 million for the K-12 high-speed network** to meet the Internet requirements for implementation of Common Core standards. This additional funding is in addition to last year's successful procurement of $1.2 billion for Common Core implementation, professional development of teachers and technology upgrades for schools.

In the health area, **Susan authored legislation that expanded health care access for women** and a successful bill that addresses the shortage of trained medical students in this State by allowing graduates of accelerated or fully accredited medical education programs to become licensed physicians. This bill was co-sponsored by the Medical Board of California and the University of California.

Susan has an exemplary record of supporting environmentally friendly bills in the Assembly. Recently she introduced legislation that will ensure that a specified amount of cap-and-trade revenue will be used for the development of infrastructure and purification technology for biogas. This will reduce the emissions of green house gases and increase investments in biogas development, which will ultimately decrease our reliance on natural gas.

The evidence is clear: Susan Bonilla has an impressive record of accomplishment in working for progressive causes during her years of public service. If elected to the State Senate there is no question that she will build on this record in an exemplary manner. That is the main reason that I support her candidacy for this position and that is the main reason that she was endorsed by the Democratic Party, former Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan, Congressman Mark DeSaulnier, former Congressman George Miller, Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson, and all of the Democratic clubs in the area, including the Democrats of Rossmoor.

Best Wishes,

Jane