

THE LATINO Presidential QUESTIONNAIRE

LATINO
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
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Tom Steyer

1. By 2030, California will need [1.65 million](#) more college degrees to stay economically competitive. When fifty-four percent of the state's K-12 public school students are Latino, and in the higher education space, Latinos make up more than one million students, what are your plans to ensure that more Latinos in California attain a college degree?

My 5 Rights agenda guarantees that Americans have five new constitutional rights — the right to healthcare, clean air and water, a livable wage, an equal vote, and a quality education. Education is more than a rung of a ladder to get a job, but creates opportunities for students for a more fulfilling life and is the basis of our individual communities.

Science, technology, engineering and math — and I would add the arts, STEAM — are the fields at the core of our innovation economy. Yet so far, many students have been left out of learning these core competencies. We have to tackle educational inequity from cradle to career which is why I will make major investments in education-from Pre-K to higher education as well as, worker training and apprenticeship programs. This will produce a highly trained, skilled, and educated workforce to meet the technological needs of our changing economy.

Increasing the affordability of higher education and reducing the burden of student loan debt by guaranteeing two years of free college and refinancing student loans at lower interest rates

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are two policies that would increase opportunities for the Latino community. Additionally, I will continue with work I started in California and pass a Student Borrowers Bill of Rights, and forgiving the student loan debt of teachers and other public servants who have dedicated their time and energy to building our communities.

2. There remains [2.9 million](#) uninsured people in California and nearly three out of five of these uninsured are Latino. The uninsured is expected to rise to [4.4 million](#) in the next five years, with Latinos and undocumented residents driving that growth. As president, what policies will you pursue to ensure that Latinos can obtain high-quality, affordable health care?

Housing is at the center of inequality in our country, because it determines so many other things in our lives. Far too many families struggle to find safe, affordable housing. Key elements of my Affordable Housing plan are below and you can read the [full plan here](#).

- **Invest \$47 billion per year in Affordable Construction and Renovation**
- **Update Low Income Housing Tax Credit**
Increase LIHTC Housing Credit allocations by 50% over the next five years, establish a 4% housing credit floor for renovation projects, and enact reforms to create more than 500,000 additional affordable rental units.
- **Provide relief for low- and middle-income renters**
My plan will support individuals and families with a quarterly tax credit to directly help low-income and middle-income families based on the local area Small Area Fair Markets Rents designation. Families who qualify can choose to use this credit either for rental payment assistance or to save for a down payment on a home mortgage.
- **Protect Tenants & Enforce Affordable Housing Standards**
Housing is a basic human need and the federal government needs to do everything in its power to mitigate evictions and keep people in their homes.
- **Protect vulnerable communities from housing discrimination**
I will reverse Trump's efforts to weaken the Fair Housing Act.
- **End financial discrimination against renters**
I will ban landlords and rental agencies from discriminating against applicants based upon the source of their income or history of bankruptcy, if they demonstrate current cash flow and stability requirements for occupancy.

3. [Sixty-one](#) percent of Latinos in California face high-rental costs and only 42 percent of Latinos own homes (compared to 64 percent of whites). How will you address the rising costs of rental housing and expand homeownership opportunities for Latinos?

There have been milestone moments in the quest for a better American healthcare system. Medicare, Medicaid, and the Affordable Care Act have worked to create a better healthcare system. More individuals were covered and more vulnerable individuals were rescued from the brink of financial ruin. Yet with 28 million uninsured Americans, there is still more to do to approach universal access to coverage.

It is time for patients and doctors — not the drug manufacturers or insurers — to be in charge of our health. Every American has the Right to Health; the foundation for a full and productive life. Yet for far too long, the corporate stranglehold on our health care system has kept Americans from accessing and affording the health care they need. My administration's public option will compete aggressively with the insurance companies to drive down costs, expand coverage, and deliver quality health care, covering a full 96% of all Americans.

The ability to access the care one needs is key to our economic prosperity. The public option will negotiate with medical providers and drug companies while acting as a tireless advocate for all people enrolled, including undocumented individuals. To reduce drug costs, I will build on my record in California to increase drug pricing transparency and work to significantly curtail the costs of prescription drugs. My plan will also enable Americans to purchase FDA approved drugs from across international borders, advance nationwide pricing transparency, eliminate the ability of drug manufacturers to expense the cost of advertisements, and increase advertising disclosure requirements.

4. California is home to approximately [2.9 million](#) undocumented immigrants. What steps will you take to protect immigrants in California and what is your timeline for action?

America is a nation of immigrants. I will work toward comprehensive immigration reform, including re-establishing America as a safe haven for those fleeing persecution and oppression. I will take executive action to reinstate the DACA and TPS programs, reinvigorate our visa system to attract the best and brightest to our schools and companies, invest in smart border security, provide more aid to Central America, and create a path to citizenship for millions of people that contribute to our economy, but are currently living in the shadows.

For America to flourish, this has to be a place where immigrants can flourish, too. A path to citizenship and safe-haven from persecution are fundamental American values. Throughout our history, we have welcomed immigrants be they coming to study at our world-class universities or fleeing persecution at home. We must not lose our compassion in seeking border security — it's un-American and ineffective, and nothing more than a racist political

tactic of Donald Trump. Our truth: with open arms, America has been built by welcoming those yearning to be free.

I would use presidential executive authority to reverse the Trump Administration's egregious family detention policy and eliminate the use of family detention centers. I would accelerate the review process for families seeking asylum. It is inhumane that people, particularly children, are being caged like animals. Families can't wait.

5. Latinos are overrepresented in blue-collar occupations like agriculture and construction. Latinos also have the highest poverty rate in the state and possess a median household income that is more than \$20k less than non-Latinos. What would your administration do to close the income inequality gap among Latinos and other racial/ethnic groups?

Ending poverty and inequality for Latino families and other communities starts by creating better paying jobs and increasing access to credit and financial capital that will allow families to invest and build wealth and prosperity in their communities. My commitment to economic justice and creating pathways to prosperity for all started before I became a candidate for public office, right here in California.

In 2007, my wife, Kat Taylor and I founded Beneficial State Bank, a community bank loaning money affordably to working people and projects that improve the quality of lives within local communities. We had a simple theory: give people a fair deal and a pathway for real economic power. We invested in the community, in businesses owned by women and people of color, and affordable housing. At Beneficial State Bank, we put the interests of consumers and borrowers first. We need more financial institutions that are responsible to the interests of its customers. Community banking can help expand access to fair and transparent credit for underserved communities and can fundamentally change our approach to lending.

I also believe labor unions are the back-bone of a thriving middle-class. My Administration will enforce and expand workers' rights to organize, so that in those blue collar industries, where Latinos tend to be over-represented, are able to have a voice on the job and organize a union free of fear of retaliation or employer coercion to collectively bargain for living wages.

6. The recent Kincaid Fire in California demonstrated that climate change is a real threat to Latino and immigrant communities across the state. In the first 100 days, what actions are you prepared to take to address the urgent issue of climate change?

On day one of my presidency, I will declare the climate crisis a national emergency. My work on climate began in local communities in Northern California. The people closest to the problems understand the solutions that will work best in their communities. My Justice Centered Climate Plan will lift up local voices and build a Civilian Climate Corps — a combined

service, training, and job creation effort — to implement tailored solutions specific to the needs of individual communities. Corps members will work with local leaders to develop and implement plans focused on how best to address climate impacts in their communities. One of the central missions of the Corps will be to organize an inclusive and democratic process in communities that are particularly vulnerable to climate change, have suffered the effects of environmental racism, and have historically experienced underinvestment. I will direct each agency in my administration to take action to curtail the climate crisis. In addition, every decision our government makes about infrastructure, purchasing, contracting, and investing taxpayer dollars must be aligned with achieving our climate targets.

With only 10 years left to stave off the worst effects of the climate crisis, we must organize and unite all Americans around this common purpose. I'm the only candidate in this race who will make combating climate change their top priority. Climate change threatens humanity and the world. Our lives and communities are in peril. If this isn't the top priority for our next president, it won't get done.

7. Latinas in California make [43 cents](#) on the dollar for every man in the state. As Latinas make up half the Latino population in the state, this hurts our ability to grow our economy. How will you use the presidential pulpit to close the gender pay gap for Latinas in California?

My 5 rights plan states that, EVERY American has the universal right to a living wage and every worker has the right to organize and every woman has the right to equal pay. These are crucial first steps to tackle rampant wealth inequality.

Corporate influence in Congress has silenced the voice of working people, and halted progress on wages, retirement security, health care, and other issues affecting families across the country. It's time to push power back to the people who actually do the work. While we've made progress on closing the pay gap, there is more to be done-especially for people of color who face a different set of barriers in getting fair pay and advancing in the workplace.

As president, I will keep fighting for a minimum wage of at least \$15 an hour, strengthen the right to organize, institute paid family leave, and make childcare more affordable and available. My administration will invest in programs that work for working people: increasing the earned income tax credit, enforcing strong workplace protections, and fighting for a living wage and the Paycheck Fairness Act.

For too long, too many workers have not received a meaningful pay raise while CEOs take home enormous bonuses. And it's about more than fair wages; it's about having a voice and a seat at the table. My administration will fight for justice, the ERA, workplace policies including pay equity, and equal educational and professional opportunities in STEM/STEAM and other lucrative fields.

8. The recent mass shootings in Gilroy, CA and El Paso, TX have left the Latino community fearful. What are your plans to curb gun violence in our country that have left too many Latino families grieving?

Guns kill about 100 Americans a day, from suicides, urban gun violence, domestic violence, and mass shootings. Gun violence is a public health epidemic, and must be recognized as preventable. We can come together to reclaim a culture of safety and peace across America. As president, I will work tirelessly to end gun violence by taking back our democracy and committing to long overdue gun reforms. I will fight for common-sense gun laws including:

- Universal background checks- including private sales and unlicensed sellers; close the Gun Show, Boyfriend, and Charleston loopholes; establish waiting periods at the federal level for delivery of guns; pass the Making America Safe and Secure Act ([MASS Act](#)) on gun licensing standards and incentives for both buyers and sellers
- Ban high risk weapons including assault weapons, device modifications, high capacity ammunition magazines, and strengthen laws on untraceable firearms, including ghost guns, 3D printed guns, and home manufactured guns
- Establish strong Red Flag/Extreme Risk laws to temporarily prohibit access to firearms from individuals demonstrating risky behaviors toward themselves or others

I will create a special Office on Gun Violence Prevention, reporting directly to the president, coordinating gun violence efforts at all levels of government. We will coordinate efforts at the federal level to strengthen oversight and fully fund the efforts at all levels of government, including states and municipalities. This office will also tackle the issue of white supremacy that is present in our country today, by working across federal agencies in a coordinated manner.