



## Ensuring Opportunity Campaign to End Poverty in Contra Costa Candidate Survey on Poverty Issues: City of Antioch, City Council

The Ensuring Opportunity Campaign is a collaborative, cross-sector effort to end poverty in Contra Costa County by addressing structural causes at the policy level. As part of our campaign we distributed a survey to candidates on their approach to policy strategies that help residents who are struggling to get ahead. Below are their responses. Please note that as a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, we cannot support or oppose any candidate for public office. These survey answers are meant to serve as a resource for voters.

**Below is a list of strategies that support low-income working families. How important do you believe each of these strategies is to supporting low-income working families in your community?** (*Not at all important, Moderately important, or Extremely important*)

	<b>Karl Dietzel</b>	<b>Mary Helen Rocha</b>	<b>Frederick Rouse</b>	<b>Lamar Thorpe</b> <i>(Did not respond)</i>	<b>Ken Turnage II</b>	<b>Monica Wilson</b>
Increase local minimum wage to ensure workers earn a living wage.	Extremely important	Extremely important	Extremely important		Moderately important	Extremely important
Strengthen and increase access to safety net services, such as CalFresh (food stamps), SSDI (disability benefits), health care coverage, EITC (tax credit for low-income workers), and CalWORKs (welfare to work).	Extremely important	Extremely important	Moderately important		Moderately important	Extremely important
Promote and expand child care tax credits, renter's credits, and other tax credits that directly impact low-wage workers.	Extremely important	Extremely important	Moderately important		Extremely important	Extremely important
Ensure worker protections and community benefits, such as project-specific community benefit agreements (to ensure living wage, local hiring, etc.)	Extremely important	Extremely important	Extremely important		Moderately important	Extremely important
Other (please specify) or comments:						

**Below are five commonly recognized policy strategies to end hunger. How important do you believe each of these is to ending hunger in your community?**  
*(Not at all important, Moderately important, or Extremely important)*

	<b>Karl Dietzel</b>	<b>Mary Helen Rocha</b>	<b>Frederick Rouse</b>	<b>Lamar Thorpe</b> <i>(Did not respond)</i>	<b>Ken Turnage II</b>	<b>Monica Wilson</b>
Strengthen the capacity of emergency food assistance networks, such as local food banks	Extremely important	Extremely important	Extremely important		Extremely important	Extremely important
Streamline and improve participation in the nutrition assistance program CalFresh	Extremely important	Extremely important	Moderately important		Extremely important	Extremely important
Improve the quality and accessibility of child nutrition programs, including school breakfast and lunch, summer meals, and the supplemental nutrition assistance program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)	Moderately important	Extremely important	Moderately important		Extremely important	Extremely important
Dismantle “food deserts” (areas in which it is difficult to buy affordable or good-quality fresh food) by developing accessible and affordable avenues through which people can purchase nutritious foods	Extremely important	Extremely important	Moderately important		Moderately important	Extremely important
Address the underlying socio-economic factors that give rise to poverty and hunger	Extremely important	Extremely important	Extremely important		Extremely important	Extremely important
Other (please specify) or comments:						

**Below is a list of strategies to address housing insecurity. How important do you believe each of these strategies is to meeting the housing needs of your community? (Not at all important, Moderately important, or Extremely important)**

	<b>Karl Dietzel</b>	<b>Mary Helen Rocha</b>	<b>Frederick Rouse</b>	<b>Lamar Thorpe</b> <i>(Did not respond)</i>	<b>Ken Turnage II</b>	<b>Monica Wilson</b>
Promote efforts to dedicate land permanently to affordable housing (low- and moderate-income)	Extremely important	Extremely important	Moderately important		Moderately important	Extremely important
Create a permanent funding source to support the development of affordable housing	Extremely important	Extremely important	Moderately important		Moderately important	Extremely important
Support Community Land Trusts	Extremely important	Extremely important	Moderately important		Moderately important	Extremely important
Support the Housing First approach, which prioritizes providing housing to homeless residents as quickly as possible and then addressing additional support-service needs	Extremely important	Extremely important	Extremely important		Not at all important	Extremely important
Support policy prohibiting discrimination against Section 8 voucher holders	Extremely important	Extremely important	Extremely important		<i>(Did not respond)</i>	Extremely important
Other (please specify) or comments:					I do not condone any type of discrimination, but I feel any answer for the question on section 8 will not reflect my true opinion because I believe that system is broken and needs to be completely overhauled.	

**Do you support expanding Contra Costa Cares (county funded health coverage) to cover all adult residents who don't have health care because of their immigration status? If so, how will you work to make it happen? If not, what will you do to ensure that all residents have access to high quality and affordable health care?**

**Karl Dietzel**

*(Did not respond)*

**Mary Helen Rocha**

The County made the decision to stop funding health care for immigrant adults that are not here legally. Of course this made the Hospitals contribute money to take care of 3000 immigrants but even with the donated money some Supervisors did not want to support the effort. Nothing can be done in this County without advocates pushing the issue. It cost more money not taking care of the adults before they are too sick to have to use the emergency. The attitude of the Government determines how we treat the immigrant adults. Alameda has 13 community clinics we have 4 again the control is held at the County.

**Frederick Rouse**

No.

**Lamar Thorpe**

*(Did not respond)*

**Ken Turnage II**

In my opinion if you are an American Citizen you should have health care. If you are a person who is here on a visa or any other form of legal entry then yes you should access to medical assistance.

**Monica Wilson**

I believe it is important that everyone have access to health care. This is something that I would need to work with county, state and federal officials. Looking at funding sources help cover this cost.

**What do you think are the two most pressing issues for residents in your community who are struggling to make ends meet? And if elected, what will you do to address those issues? Please be specific. (Limit response to 200 words. Only the first 200 words will be published.)**

**Karl Dietzel**

Crime and living wages paying jobs

**Mary Helen Rocha**

The hidden homeless that are couch surfing which are families living in cars or where ever they can find a place. The City of Antioch has a piece of land that is willing to transfer to a church group that has the Builders involved to help in building the Center that will hold 50 women and children. Gary Kingsbury is heading the campaign with the Churches in the community to fund the project. We are at the City level to transfer the land and make it possible to establish the Woman Center.

Our other issue is HOMELESS population but that is a Federal /State issue that Cities need help with the funding we have a 32 % increase in the Antioch area.

**Frederick Rouse**

1. Crime: We must keep our streets and homes safe from crime. I will work on making our streets a place that criminals avoid. As a member of the City Council I will have better answers, results and rules in our City. Together we will be able to enforce real punishment for crimes in our city. I plan on doing this by holding parents to answer for their children's actions and hold repeat criminals in jail as long as the law allows. I want to have penalties enforced to the full extent of the law.
2. Quality of Life: As a City Council member I will create friends with new businesses and avoid special interests. Antioch needs to accept new technologies, new thinking, new ways of doing things but keep Antioch a great place to sit on the delta and fish. That's my thinking. I have much more to share, but I need your help.

**Lamar Thorpe**

*Did not respond*

**Ken Turnage II**

Our two biggest issues are quality of jobs. Our biggest job market is the service industry which does not pay enough for a person to be able to sustain themselves in our region. We need to bring in career type jobs and job training programs. That is why I am on the board for the Health and Welfare Initiative.

Secondly distance of travel for work, this is cumbersome. Especially in our manual labor sector of the community. We need to develop more work in the East Contra Costa area. This can be done with development as well as re-development of our more time dated sectors. We need to look at these areas as regions when trying to bring in jobs. If Oakley generates an additional 2,000 jobs this helps Antioch as well and vice versa.

**Monica Wilson**

For my community the two most pressing issues are access to public safety and access to resources. People want to live in safe crime free communities. The bigger issues for our residents (especially in East Contra Costa) is access to resources such as housing, job training and health care. For every \$8 spent in West Contra Costa a \$1 is spent in East Contra Costa. Resident do not want to travel 3 hours to see a doctor, most only have access to public transportation. Residents need access to proper job training so they can get the jobs that pay a livable wage. I would work closely with the County Clinic programs to bring more health care clinics so residents have access to affordable primary care. Partnering with the county Workforce Development Board so resident can get the job training they need to qualify for better paying jobs.