



Ensuring Opportunity Campaign to End Poverty in Contra Costa

Candidate Survey on Poverty Issues:

City of Antioch, Mayoral Candidates

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)*

	Wade Harper <i>(Did not respond)</i>	Gil Murillo	Lori Ogorchock <i>(Did not respond)</i>	Sean Wright <i>(Did not respond)</i>
Increase local minimum wage to ensure workers earn a living wage.		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).		Moderately important		
Promote and expand child care tax credits, renter’s credits, and other tax credits that directly impact low-wage workers.		Extremely important		
Ensure worker protections and community benefits, such as project-specific community benefit agreements (to ensure living wage, local hiring, etc.)		Extremely important		
Other (please specify) or comments:		Implement program to bring technology and trade training programs to the Antioch region outside from the local community college.		

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)

	Wade Harper <i>(Did not respond)</i>	Gil Murillo	Lori Ogorchock <i>(Did not respond)</i>	Sean Wright <i>(Did not respond)</i>
Strengthen the capacity of emergency food assistance networks, such as local food banks		Extremely important		
Streamline and improve participation in the nutrition assistance program CalFresh		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)		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		
Address the underlying socio-economic factors that give rise to poverty and hunger		Extremely important		
Other (please specify) or comments:		Promote program with local school district to implement 20 hours community service program as part of the graduation requirement to help with community outreach.		

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)

	Wade Harper <i>(Did not respond)</i>	Gil Murillo	Lori Ogorchock <i>(Did not respond)</i>	Sean Wright <i>(Did not respond)</i>
Promote efforts to dedicate land permanently to affordable housing (low- and moderate-income)		Moderately important		
Create a permanent funding source to support the development of affordable housing		Moderately important		
Support Community Land Trusts		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		Moderately important		
Support policy prohibiting discrimination against Section 8 voucher holders		Extremely important		
Other (please specify) or comments:		<p>Antioch is one of the most affordable cities in the Bay area where one can purchase a home.</p> <p>Section 8 tenants are not the issue...it is the landlord who takes advantage of the program. Ensure Section 8 landlords provide the proper support and maintenance services to support their property.</p> <p>Examples, ensure vegetation is maintained, blinds are fixed and windows are fixed and not covered by cardboard or wood sheets.</p>		

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?

Wade Harper

(Did not respond)

Gill Murillo

Q1) Yes...I do support everyone should have access to health care.

Q2) Implement what San Francisco has done -- implement tax (no more than 1%; SF is higher I know) for all restaurants in CoCo.

Q3) I would have the VA and CoCo bring forth the necessary resources to identify the uninsured as some community members may be entitled to medical coverage without knowing they have access. For those that are uninsured, work with the County to determine how services can be obtained. Antioch partners with La Latina Medical Clinic in which they held the uninsured.

Lori Ogorchock

(Did not respond)

Sean Wright

(Did not respond)

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.)

Wade Harper

(Did not respond)

Gill Murillo

The initial pressing issue is invisible poverty community whereas we have families and individuals who are struggling everyday. Children of these families primary meal comes from the school district. In addition, these children have positive settings as the tension from home strong. Also we are seeing children trafficking on the rise in Antioch.

I would work with the food bank and churches to develop a program in which families can adopt families. Families would need to be part of a church program so they are identified.

Trafficking - I would place plate readers near hotels, crack down on sex offenders near schools, parks and areas in which children are near.

Lori Ogorchock

(Did not respond)

Sean Wright

(Did not respond)