



## Ensuring Opportunity Campaign to End Poverty in Contra Costa

### Candidate Survey on Poverty Issues:

### Contra Costa Board of Supervisors, District 3

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>Steve Barr</b> <i>(Did not respond)</i>	<b>Diane Burgis</b>
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).		Extremely 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:		

**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>Steve Barr</b> <i>(Did not respond)</i>	<b>Diane Burgis</b>
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:		

**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>Steve Barr</b> <i>(Did not respond)</i>	<b>Diane Burgis</b>
Promote efforts to dedicate land permanently to affordable housing (low- and moderate-income)		Extremely important
Create a permanent funding source to support the development of affordable housing		Extremely 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		Extremely important
Support policy prohibiting discrimination against Section 8 voucher holders		Extremely important
Other (please specify) or comments:		

**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?**

**Steve Barr**

*(Did not respond)*

**Diane Burgis**

I think everyone regardless of their immigration status should have access to health care. I will work with our state and federal leaders to help create the funding and will work on local level to make sure those that need health care can access it.

**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.)**

**Steve Barr**

*(Did not respond)*

**Diane Burgis**

Very recently housing has become a big issue along with access to services. Rents are going up and making it harder and harder for people to make ends meet and the services that people need to help them get back on their feet aren't readily available in East Contra Costa. I will work with county staff to help support cities in meeting those housing needs & local nonprofits and organizations to help promote those efforts to bring more affordable housing options and to bring county services to East County.