



Imperial Beach Democratic Club
2022 State Senate Candidate Consideration Survey
Revised 11/1//2021

General Information

(please use bold blue font when filling out the questionnaire)

Candidate: Steve Padilla

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Campaign Manager: Eva Posner (Management Support Consultant)

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Please provide any website or social media information here:

Website: www.votestevepadilla.com

Facebook: facebook.com/VoteStevePadilla

Twitter: @StevePadillaCV

- 1.) Have you been registered OTHER than a Democrat? [] YES [] NO
- 2.) How long have you been registered as a Democrat? 35 years
- 3.) How long have you been a resident of the district? Lifelong South Bay resident
- 4.) Have you run for or been elected to public office previously?

YES [] NO

If “YES”, what office did you run for, or previously hold?

- **Chula Vista City Council (1994-2002, 2016-present)**
- **Chula Vista Mayor (2002-2006)**

5.) Please share how much money your campaign has raised to date, and how much you expect to raise.

We’re approaching 400K to date and are well on track to raise at a minimum high six figures to meet our aggressive primary budget goals. Our primary budget at this time is 750 - 1MM.

6.) Please list your endorsements (or attach the list on a separate page).

I have been endorsed by Imperial Beach Mayor Serge Dedina and Councilmember Paloma Aguirre, and former Councilmember Mark West as well as the CA LGBTQ and Latino Legislative Caucuses, Equality California, several Labor unions, and every Democratic state and federal legislator in my district, as well as 11 current State Senators and Assemblymembers, and the mayors of all the major cities in the 40th district. A full list of endorsements can be found at votestevepadilla.com/endorsements and at the end of this questionnaire.

Goals, Issues & Policy Objectives

1.) Why are you running for office?

I’m running for State Senate because this time demands values that can’t be swayed from one election to the next and a real commitment to our community. I’m running to create jobs and support small businesses, to tackle income inequality and racial justice, expand access to healthcare, strengthen public education and build affordable housing that working families can actually afford. I’m running to rebuild opportunity and make life better for the working and middle class families that are the backbone of San Diego and Imperial Counties.

2.) Why are you seeking endorsement from the Imperial Beach Democratic Club?

From the border, to the Tijuana River pollution crisis, to the consistent flooding from climate change, Imperial Beach is on the front line of many of the most critical issues facing

the district, our state, and our nation. Having a strong working relationship with the people who put in the work every day to solve these problems is important to me.

3.) List your top three policy agenda goals for your campaign:

My priorities will address the root causes of shrinking economic opportunities and inequities, and will be aimed at improving well-being and delivering for the many diverse communities in the 40th District that have been hard hit by the pandemic. This includes tackling income inequality and economic recovery, expanding access to healthcare, and leading on climate.

4.) Imperial Beach is ever increasingly under greater threat of sea level rise, high-tide flooding, coastal erosion, and higher storm surge.

a) Do you believe the science that says climate change is real?

YES NO Requires further explanation:

b) Do you believe that climate change can be mitigated or reversed?

YES NO Requires further explanation:

c) If elected, how will you use your office to meet the climate-related challenges facing Imperial Beach? Please explain.

The climate crisis, environmental health and justice, and reliable access to clean, safe water are serious challenges facing my community and all of California. We need to urgently reduce carbon emissions, eliminate our dependence on fossil fuels and make that transition aggressively and quickly. Climate change is here, it's real and it's a threat to our lives, public health and economy.

As Chair of the state's Coastal Commission, I've fought hard to tackle climate change by working to prepare for sea-level rise, ensuring climate resilient development along our coast and integrating environmental justice priorities into all our decisions. That includes land use decisions that protect residential neighborhoods, especially in areas like Senate District 40, from industrial pollution and emissions. I also recommend Councilmember Paloma Aguirre to serve as my alternate on Coastal Commission specifically to empower Imperial Beach to have a voice in the state's response to the critical climate issues IB faces first hand.

Communities in Senate District 40 surrounding the Tijuana River Valley and Salton Sea are of particular concern and need a leader with the experience to improve air and water quality. In the State Senate, I'll work with local communities like Imperial Beach to boldly address issues like the Tijuana River Valley clean up, working to mitigate sea level rise and reduce flooding, and improve air and water quality.

5.) For decades, Imperial Beach has been plagued by an unrelenting sewage spill from south of the international border. The constant flow of millions of gallons of waste, including untreated sewage, trash, pesticides, and heavy metals, make our beaches toxic and inaccessible to our residents for extended periods of time. Additionally, the sustained pollution of the Tijuana River impacts our air quality, biological resources, and hurts our overall economy. If elected, what is your plan for the Tijuana River Valley? Please explain.

The international aspect of this issue makes it incredibly complex to address, but not impossible. First, we must work with the federal government to create waste capture system on the US side of the river to ensure that spills from Tijuana are not making it all the way down river. This requires working with Congress and the State to ensure funding for the system and the surrounding infrastructure is secured. Then comes the hard part: negotiating with Mexico to have them invest in treatment and capture systems on their side of the border. Particularly where the waste flows directly into the ocean. This may require a cost-sharing structure and a heavy international investment on the part of the federal or state government, but it is well worth protecting communities and families on both sides of the border from the ill impacts of air and water pollution.

6.) Will you affirm a commitment to housing justice: housing is a human right regardless of status and not for the marginalization of poorer residents into less desirable areas that frequently have higher pollution levels and other health risks?

YES NO Requires further explanation: **I led Chula Vista to create an inclusionary housing ordinance years ago because I saw this very problem. Everyone deserves to have a roof over their head and access to community and neighborhood resources like good schools, clean green space, clean air and water, and reliable neighborhood services. I have worked hard to build relationships in government, nonprofit, and development spaces that has resulted in hundreds of affordable housing units throughout Chula Vista, including in the traditionally more well-off neighborhoods. I will be proud to continue that fight in the State Senate.**

7.) Will you affirm a commitment to environmental justice: no community should be subjected to environmental hazards due to race, economic standing, or immigration status?

YES NO Requires further explanation: **BIPOC and low-income communities have suffered the most harm from toxic pollution in our state. On the Coastal**

Commission, I've been fighting to reduce toxic exposure along the coast and limit emissions from industries located close to residential neighborhoods. Equity must be at the heart of the climate debate to ensure that environmental justice remains a priority in our fight against climate change. We must reduce toxic hotspots, create and enforce strong regulatory measures, and accelerate our transition away from fossil fuels.

8.) Will you promote food safety, the “eat local” movement, small family farms, urban gardens, and healthy food alternatives?

YES NO Requires further explanation:

9.) COVID-19 has had a significant impact on our community. Though the City of Imperial Beach and its residents have received emergency funding and services from county, state, and federal governments throughout the pandemic, how will you fight for Imperial Beach to make a strong recovery in the years to come? Please explain:

COVID-19 laid bare many systemic failings in our communities, and the key to rebuilding from that is to address them head on. We must invest in economic growth through solving systemic problems. Building green infrastructure, strengthening our public health systems and increasing healthcare access, making housing affordable and increasing supply, providing workplace protections and increasing wages for frontline workers, and more. All of these things can be done, and can be done in such a way that grows our economy, shrinks inequity, and improves quality of life in Imperial Beach and across California.

Signed:



Date: 12/2/21



STEVE PADILLA

FOR **STATE SENATE**

ENDORSEMENTS

ORGANIZATIONS

California Latino Legislative Caucus
California Legislative LGBTQ Caucus
Equality California
San Diego County Building and Construction
Trades Council, AFL-CIO
UNITEHERE! Local 30
IBEW Local 569
Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters
California State Building & Construction Trades
Council
California State Council of Laborers
United Domestic Workers of America, AFSCME
Local 3930, AFL-CIO

STATE & FEDERAL

Congressmember Juan Vargas
Congressmember Mike Levin
State Controller Betty T. Yee
State Senator Ben Hueso
State Senator John Laird
State Senator Susan Talamantes Eggman
State Senator Scott Wiener
Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon
Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia
Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez
Assemblymember Chris Ward
Assemblymember Tasha Boerner Horvath
Assemblymember Sabrina Cervantes
Assemblymember Akilah Weber

State Board of Education Member Haydee
Rodriguez

SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Supervisor Nathan Fletcher
San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria
Chula Vista Mayor Mary Salas
Imperial Beach Mayor Serge Dedina
National City Mayor Alejandra Sotelo-Solis
Encinitas Mayor Catherine Blakespear
Chula Vista Councilmember Andrea Cardenas
Imperial Beach Councilmember Paloma Aguirre
Imperial Beach Councilmember Mark West (ret.)
National City Vice Mayor Jose Rodriguez
National City Councilmember Mona Rios
National City Councilmember Marcus Bush
San Diego City Council President Jennifer Campbell
San Diego City Councilmember Monica
Montgomery Steppe
San Diego City Councilmember Raul Campillo
Fmr. San Diego City Council President Georgette
Gómez
Encinitas Councilmember Joe Mosca
San Diego City Attorney Mara Elliott
Port of San Diego Commissioner Rafael Castellanos
Port of San Diego Commissioner Ann Moore
Port of San Diego Commissioner Dan Malcolm
Chula Vista School Board President Dr. Eduardo
Reyes
Chula Vista School Board Member Francisco
Tamayo

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ENDORSEMENTS

IMPERIAL COUNTY

Supervisor Ray Castillo
Supervisor Jesus Escobar
Supervisor Luis Plancarte
El Centro Mayor Cheryl Viegas-Walker
El Centro Mayor pro Tem Tomás Oliva
El Centro Councilmember Martha Cardenas-Singh
City of Imperial Mayor Karin Eugenio
Brawley Councilmember Ramon Castro
Calexico Mayor Xavier Moreno
Calexico Councilmember Camilo Garcia
Calexico Councilmember Rosie Fernandez
Imperial Councilmember Katie Burnworth
Imperial Irrigation District Vice President JB Hamby
Imperial Irrigation District Board Member Alex Cardenas
Central Union High School District Board Member Maria Peinado
Central Union High School District Board Member Diahna Garcia-Ruiz

RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Coachella Councilmember Neftali Galarza

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