

350 Action 2019 Candidate Questionnaire

Esmeralda Soria

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About You

Your Name: Esmeralda Soria

What office are you running for, and as which party?: Democrat, running for U.S. House of Representatives, Congressional District 16

Policy Positions

Do you support a Green New Deal that ends fossil fuels and provides an immediate and just transition to 100% renewable energy? Explain what that means to you.

I support a Green New Deal. As someone who lives in the Central Valley an area with the worst air quality in the nations and an area where there are still communities who do not have access to clean water. I believe it is time that we take the issue of environmental justice and accountability seriously and that we work towards improving our environment and thinking about the future of our children and grandchildren. The State of California has seen prolonged periods of drought and increasing temperatures setting records every year, fires have destroyed communities, lives, and threatened native species and lands. We must work towards transitioning to clean renewable energy and lead the Valley to be the Silicon Valley of Renewable energy.

How will you center racial, economic and social justice in your climate policies?

I have seen first-hand the negative impacts of pollution and other climate-related consequences on disadvantaged communities. This is why I will strive for equity among all communities when it comes to resource allocation and regulations of environmentally impactful companies. All areas of the Central Valley including communities of color, low-income, and others should not be taken for granted at the decision-making table. I will also ensure that Social justice groups have a seat at the decision-making table to ensure that those who are working closely with affected communities give their input about the needs that exist. I have a track record of working on these issues with the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation. I also pride myself on being an accessible representative.

Do you support a moratorium on all new fossil fuel infrastructure, including pipelines, fracked gas and oil, compressor stations and coal power plants? Please tell us with specifics what you'd do if elected to stop the expansion of the fossil fuel industry and keep fossil fuels in the ground?

I support a moratorium on all new fossil fuel infrastructure, including pipelines, fracked gas and oil, compressor stations and coal power plants. I believe that it's Congress's and the entire country's responsibility to prevent the fossil fuel industry from harming our ecosystem. There is an eminent need to transform and quickly phase out pollutant technology.

Do you support the investigation of the fossil fuel industry's role in causing climate change, blocking climate action, and misleading the public? If so, do you have plans for a process to hold the industry financially accountable for that role and related harms?

I support an investigation of the fossil fuel industries. They play a role in the leading cause of climate change. Fossil fuels should be held accountable to the highest law and any reparations, sanctions, and penalties should be a possibility.

Do you pledge to reject any contributions from the fossil fuel industry, as defined by the "No Fossil Fuel Money Pledge"?

Yes

Do you support plans to create an immigration policy that allows a path to citizenship for undocumented people?

Yes, I support plans to create an immigration policy that allows a path to citizenship. Undocumented individuals should not be used as bargaining chips and be uncertain about their status in our country.

What are your specific plans for addressing the refugees and other migrants at the US borders?

We must follow our International agreements and allow refugees and migrants escaping from violence and economic hardship from other countries, especially in the Middle East in Syria or Iraq. European countries such as Italy, France, and Germany have allowed thousands of Syrian immigrants while states like Texas refuse to allow refugees into their state. We shouldn't put kids in cages, we must treat all immigrants at the border humanely.

How do you see climate change impacting mass migrations and what are your plans to address the increase in refugees as a result of the climate crisis?

With many communities already living with the consequences of climate change, Congress and local citizens need to assist these climate refugees. We need to conduct research and prevent more damage and harm so other individuals and families do not suffer the same effects.

What are your plans for criminal justice reform?

I am appalled with many people of color suffering from police brutality, mass convictions for minor offenses. Many states have three-strikes laws where many economically disadvantaged communities are more likely to be sentenced 25 years to life in prison. In California, my opponent leads the three strikes law efforts. Currently, the country utilizes private prisons, which essentially, makes it so that every prisoner is a profit. This systematic racism needs to stop. I plan to overhaul the criminal justice system. For instance, make it illegal for private prisons to continue to operate. Make it federally illegal for states to have legislation similar to the three-strikes law.

Do you support a worker's right to unionize?

Yes. I support a worker's right to unionize.

Do you support a \$15/hour minimum wage?

Yes. I support a \$15/hour minimum wage.

How do you plan to address the resurgence of white supremacy in the public discourse? Please tell us your plan to respond to white nationalist terrorist acts in this country?

Congress needs to address the increasing threat of white supremacy and white nationalist terrorist acts harming our communities. The media also needs to address these acts committed by where supremacists as terrorist acts of violence. We need to address how and why these acts of violence continue to happen and pass legislation to reduce and prevent these acts from happening in the future. We also need to inform and educate the public. We need to ensure that these white national terrorist acts are tried as hate crimes.

What are your plan to reduce gun violence and mass shootings?

We need to pass universal background checks and revise standards for gunshot employees who are selling weapons. We need to offer mental health resources that prevent individuals who might start a mass shooting. We need to ban any automatic weapons, fast capacity ammunition and bump stocks.

Do you support the payment of reparations and/or related structural adjustment to remunerate the descendants of enslaved African Americans to addressing America's history of codified and systemic racism?

Yes. I support the repayment of reparations of enslaved African Americans.

Do you support the return of unceded lands and territory or related royalties to Indigenous Populations as a form of redress for America's history of codified and systemic racism?

Yes. I support the return of unceded lands and territory or related royalties to Indigenous Populations.

Do you support Medicare for All?

Yes. I support Medicare for All.

Do you support a woman's right to choose?

Yes

Race:

Latina

Gender:

Female

If you'd like, tell us more about your identity in your own words: