



## Encinitas 4 Equality | 2020 Candidate Questionnaire & Responses

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Responses of **Catherine Blakespear, incumbent candidate for Mayor of Encinitas.**

1. What policies, goals, or priorities do you support related to housing in Encinitas? What housing policies have you seen enacted elsewhere in California or the US that you would like to replicate here?

**Catherine Blakespear:** *The City of Encinitas needs more affordable housing. The median price of a home in Encinitas is more than \$1 million. We've struggled to provide the opportunities for more affordable housing because there's a strong anti-housing sentiment among some, and we have not seen a visible pro-affordable housing constituency in the city until recently.*

2. What is your stance on affirmative action in California? Do you support Proposition 16 and the attempt to repeal the ban on affirmative action in California?

**Catherine Blakespear:** *I support affirmative action and Prop. 16. In order to overcome systemic barriers to equality and access to prosperity we need to create the opportunities for minorities to have spots in higher education that have been historically closed to them. Overturning a ban on affirmative action is an important step.*

3. The United States Commission on Civil Rights issued a memo on November 15, 2008 that stated "The best available evidence reflects high rates of use of force nationally, and increased likelihood of police use of force against People of Color, people with disabilities, LGBT people, people with mental health concerns, people with low incomes, and those at the intersections of these groups." Do you believe that police use of force, specifically when interacting

with People of Color, people with disabilities, LGBT people, people with mental health concerns, and people with low incomes, is an issue that needs to be addressed by the local government in Encinitas? If not, why not? If so, what reforms would you propose?

**Catherine Blakespear.** *The City of Encinitas needs to be involved in rectifying any situation where the County Sheriff's Department is disproportionately using force against certain categories of people. The city could coordinate with the other nine jurisdictions that contract with the sheriff for law enforcement to negotiate as part of our labor contract for performance reforms. The county is the agency that does the labor negotiations but if the contract cities were united in our requests we could influence the county.*

4. According to the California Department of Education, 62% of San Diego County public school teachers are White while more than 70% of the County's students identify as People of Color. Do you believe it is important to hire teachers, administrators, and counselors that reflect the demographics of the student body they serve? If not, why not? If so, what reforms would you support to promote the hiring of qualified People of Color as administrators, teachers, and counselors?

**Catherine Blakespear.** *I support hiring teachers, administrators and counselors who reflect the demographics of the student body they serve. This can lead to better outcomes and opportunities for successful role modeling. Passing Prop. 16 would create the legal framework where these hiring decisions could be made.*

5. San Diego Unified and Los Angeles Unified School Districts acknowledged that school closures, online learning, and incomplete access to technology are believed to have caused massive learning losses for many students, particularly low-income students. In light of the recent surge of COVID-19 cases and cancellation of in person classes, what are your proposals to help

youth who struggle with absent parents, no internet, lack of meals, and lost job opportunities?

**Catherine Blakespear.** *The current situation with children learning from home exacerbates the systemic inequalities that already exist. There is also a heavy burden on women who are working parents that disproportionately affects rates of female participation in the work force. The best outcome is for us to get coronavirus transmission rates under control and have kids return to the classroom as soon as possible.*