



## Encinitas 4 Equality | 2020 Candidate Questionnaire & Responses

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Responses of **Katrina Young**, candidate for **San Dieguito Unified High School District (SDUHSD) Trustee, Area 2**

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?

***Katrina Young:** I am a conservationist at heart and generally do not support high density housing or excessive building. However, I do believe that Encinitas needs more affording housing options. As a candidate for School Board, I am not as well versed on municipal ordinances and urban planning models as other candidates. However, as with other issues that I adopt, I believe in fairness and equity for all.*

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?

***Katrina Young:** I believe that everyone, regardless of the color of their skin or gender they were born and/or identify as, should have equal rights in terms of employment, education, and wages. As this week has reminded us with the passing of RBG, we stand on the very strong shoulders of all those brave individuals who have paved the way for the rights we have today. We have made progress, but so much more work needs to be done before I am confident that my two daughters and even my daughter's boyfriend (who is Ghanaian and a Person of Color) are afforded the same opportunities as my son or any other white male. For these reasons I support Proposition 16 and all racial and gender rights.*

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?

**Katrina Young:** *I definitely feel that police brutality is a serious issues that needs to be addressed nationally. In order to successfully implement the changes need to treat all people with respect and decency, we need to start within our local communities. Therefore, I support police reform in Encinitas and look forward to seeing our elected leaders initiate conversations about adding more mental support and de-escalation training to their precincts. I definitely believe that more efforts should be made to help our police force connect with and better understand the communities they serve. After all, they can not adequately protect them if they can not relate to their individual beliefs, needs, concerns, and/or even struggles.*

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?

**Katrina Young:** *I absolutely support the need to hire and add more People of Color in all professions, especially within our schools as I believe that education is the one of the best weapons against bias and discrimination of*

*any kind. While we can not change our current demographics in north county San Diego, we can address our white privilege and we can change the narrative. I do not presume to pretend that I currently have all the answers to achieve inclusion and equality, but I am committed to listening and learning from groups such as E4E. I understand that one of E4E's requests is to form an Equality Team and I see that as an excellent platform for creating a more diverse district, proving both structure and authority to our shared hopes.*

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?

***Katrina Young:*** *I definitely agree that COVID-19 has created an enormous digital divide, especially within low-income families. As families across north county San Diego form their own learning cohorts and even hire tutors to assist with virtual learning, disadvantaged students struggle in unsuitable learning environments and, in some cases, without proper tools and support to succeed. As a School Board Trustee, I would work tirelessly to ensure that ALL students in our district have access to the same education. I would create task forces, form and seek the council of our District Equity Team, and work with school sites to make sure SDUHSD students have the emotional and academic resources they need. In fact, I have prior experience in accomplishing that on a very small scale. As a Court Appointed Special Advocate, I have worked with my four case children, their caretaker and social worker to make sure they had everything they needed during the spring school closures. While their district generously gave one learning device to each household, I lobbied for an extra one to help with four elementary students trying to learning simultaneously. I was thrilled when I learned that they not only received one extra, but two. Currently they now have 2 laptops*

*and 2 Chromebook to assist with their learning. It was a small start, but very meaningful to that one family. I look forward to extending similar opportunities across our district, as needed.*