



Encinitas 4 Equality | 2020 Candidate Questionnaire & Responses

Responses of **Marlon Taylor**, candidate for **Encinitas Union School District School Board**.

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?

***Marlon Taylor:** I believe the ultimate goal for the city should be to have a variety of housing types that are affordable and promote diversity. Encinitas is a pretty unique area, but there is much needed room for improvement. This community needs to be more welcoming and actively looking for opportunities to increase our cities socioeconomic diversity.*

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?

***Marlon Taylor:** I support affirmative action. Until we see significant changes across the board, in the workplace and in colleges, affirmative action will remain necessary. I support Prop 16 because it provides a level of accountability, which will truly make affirmative action as effective as it should be.*

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?

Marlon Taylor: *Our local government has a responsibility to protect us all. The data available cannot be disputed, there is a significant use of force problem and it needs to be addressed. People of color are stopped at an alarming rate and people in a mental health crisis are not getting the support they need.*

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?

Marlon Taylor: *In the EUSD and SDUHSD districts, the vast majority of the teachers are white. In fact, there are very few teachers of color in our schools. Given the current state of the country, this is proving to be problematic because many of these teachers are ill-equipped to effectively talk about matters of race and diversity in the classrooms. In a community like ours, where diversity is lacking, voices of color need to be amplified. One of the best places to do this is to cast wider searches to bring in qualified people of color to our district.*

If I'm elected to the school board, that will be a priority item on my list.

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?

Marlon Taylor: *I would like to see EUSD take a more proactive approach to checking in on our families. COVID-19 has been very problematic for us all and the economic fallout is going to be far reaching. There are families that have been able to weather the storm. However, given the lack of economic relief from the federal government, it's safe to assume that many in our community remain at risk.*

I believe that the district needs to constantly check-in with all of our children and families to make sure that they have everything they need. We all need to be flexible and observant.