



Encinitas 4 Equality | 2020 Candidate Questionnaire & Responses

Responses of **Terra Lawson-Remer**, candidate for the **San Diego County Board of Supervisors, District 3**.

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?

Terra Lawson-Remer. *We need to meet our housing production goals across the County, including in Encinitas. I believe we need to focus on building through "smart growth" strategies, locating housing near transit hubs and services. For too long, we've been building outward sprawl, paving over our open spaces and worsening our traffic congestion as a result. We don't need more McMansions miles away from city centers; we need affordable homes that are attainable and practical for working people.*

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?

Terra Lawson-Remer. *I support Prop 16, repealing the ban on affirmative action. Affirmative action is not reverse racism; it is a measured response and potential solution to try and counter centuries of systemic racism. The current ban would be "fair" if our communities were starting on a level playing field. They are not, and affirmative action is one way to mitigate the disadvantages that communities of color face every day.*

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?

Terra Lawson-Remer: *The outpouring of emotion seen in protests across the country this summer demonstrate that we all need to reckon with the role of police today. It is not "Defund the Police," it is improving the systems in place to respond to emergency calls. We need to invest in programs that send trained mental health professionals to help those who need support and are nonviolent, as a start. That will not only improve outcomes for those calls, but also will allow officers to better focus on the job they trained to do. We need to review and likely update police policies to reflect best practices, on issues from de-escalating situations to restraint policies.*

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?

Terra Lawson-Remer: *Yes, it is important for our children to see themselves reflected in the society around them, as well as seeing the diversity that makes our communities so vibrant. My understanding is that we're making slow progress on this issue, but have a long way to go. A key piece of the solution is ensuring that the teaching profession as a whole is supportive of new entrants- in addition to the disparities mentioned here, we also have a*

teacher shortage overall due to the difficulties our teachers face and lack of support for new educators. High barriers to entering the profession disproportionately affect disadvantaged people, who do not have as many resources to support them in the beginning. We need to maintain high standards for teachers, while supporting those with an interest in the profession so that they can meet those standards.

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?

Terra Lawson-Remer: *While not an immediate solution, the best one and highest priority is getting the pandemic under control locally so we can reopen schools. Our school system typically meets many needs for our students, but is inadequate for doing so through distance learning. As highlighted in the question, this goes beyond education itself- giving out lunches to kids who would receive them for free at school is logistically difficult, and nearly impossible to deliver for students whose parents cannot drive to a distribution center. Only by getting to a safe level for reopening can we end this part of the crisis. In the meantime, I'm supportive of efforts by the school districts to try and help their students, and as Supervisor would allocate funding to better meet those needs.*