

STRATEGIC ALLIANCE TALKING POINTS

Candidates that are supportive of policies to improve physical activity and nutrition environments may ask *you*—the question-asker—how they can support these efforts. Here are some examples of strategies candidate's can support if they are concerned about these issues.

CANDIDATE QUESTION #1

What will you do to ensure implementation of SB12 (School Nutrition Standards) and 965 (Healthy Beverage Bill) and continued improvement of the nutritional quality of school meals?

STRATEGIC ALLIANCE ANSWER

A candidate supportive of policies to school nutrition may mention that s/he would do one or more of the following steps:

- Provide training and technical assistance to principals, food service staff, and other personnel and fundraising groups charged with implementing SB12 and SB 965.
- Encourage on-going monitoring of school compliance with nutrition standards.
- Encourage school districts to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables with Fruit and Vegetable pilot program funds.
- Support school districts in improving school meals by increasing reimbursement rates, limiting fat, sugar, and sodium content, increasing the amount of fresh fruits and vegetables in meals.
- Increasing participation in school breakfast and lunch programs.

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STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS: The California Adolescent Nutrition and Fitness Program (CANFit) ■ California Center for Public Health Advocacy ■ California Food Policy Advocates ■ California Pan Ethnic Health Network ■ California Park & Recreation Society ■ California Project LEAN ■ California WIC Association Child Care Food Program Roundtable ■ Latino Health Access ■ Prevention Institute ■ Samuels & Associates, Inc ■ YMCA of the East Bay

CANDIDATE QUESTION #2

What steps will you take to support community design and local transportation planning that meaningfully takes into account the needs of pedestrians, bicyclists, and public transit users?

STRATEGIC ALLIANCE ANSWER

A candidate supportive of policies to increase physical activity may mention that s/he would do one or more of the following steps:

- Adopt 'complete streets' policies where cities and counties make accommodations for bicycling and walking (i.e. walking paths, sidewalks, bicycle routes, etc.) a routine part of their street planning, design, construction, operations, and maintenance activities.
- Decrease car dependence and automobile congestion while promoting community revitalization by investing in local shops, services, parks and trails as attractive destinations for pedestrians, cyclists, public transit users and by providing alternative modes of transportation such as bus, light rail, bicycle, and improved pedestrian facilities
- Design major activity centers (concentrations of employment and households, major public building and spaces, parks and open spaces, shopping areas, etc.) close to transit stops to encourage walking / biking for short trips and errands.
- Adopt policies that promote the growth of 'in-fill' rather than sprawl. Rather than development in outlying areas of town, in-fill focuses on (re)developing vacant lots, abandoned buildings or other underutilized facilities to promote a more walkable, bikable landscape as opposed to one that requires a car trip to reach important destinations

CANDIDATE QUESTION #3

What are your strategies for limiting children's exposure to advertising promoting consumption of unhealthy food and beverages?

STRATEGIC ALLIANCE ANSWER

Candidates supportive of policies to increase access to healthy food and physical activity may include the following steps in their response:

- Establish and support policies eliminating marketing of unhealthy foods on school grounds.
- Work with neighborhood food stores and supermarkets to adopt family-friendly policies limiting displays of unhealthy foods aimed at children.
- Encourage schools to adopt educational materials (e.g. storybooks, coloring books) that contain positive references to healthy food and avoid educational/play materials that endorse products such as fast food or salty snacks.
- Encourage/require after-school sites to eliminate marketing of unhealthy foods on site, including through vending machines, posters and other print materials.
- Support federal policies to regulate advertising of unhealthy foods to children.

CANDIDATE QUESTION #4

What actions will your office initiate to support improving access to produce and other healthy foods in underserved neighborhoods?

STRATEGIC ALLIANCE ANSWER

A candidate supportive of policies to increase access to healthy food may mention that s/he would do one or more of the following steps:

- Create policies that support and expedite the development of supermarkets in underserved areas.
- Adopt/support a food policy requiring all food and snacks purchased with government funds to meet healthy nutrition standards.
- Ensure public transportation provides service to supermarkets, Farmers' Markets and other large food outlets.
- Establish accessible Farmers' Markets or farm stand programs in underserved areas.
- Promote and establish community gardening initiatives.
- Support statewide legislation that attracts supermarkets to underserved areas and provide training and incentives to small storeowners in underserved areas to carry healthier food items, such as fresh produce.

CANDIDATE QUESTION #5

What steps will your office take to address inequities in access to parks and open space?

STRATEGIC ALLIANCE ANSWER

A candidate supportive of policies to increase access to healthy food and physical activity may mention that s/he would do one or more of the following steps:

- Consider public financing strategies (i.e. bond, measure, parcel tax, benefit assessment district) to fund creation or enhancement of parks, playgrounds, and open space.
- Promote overall community aesthetic and atmosphere of safety to encourage outdoor physical activity and recreation.
- Maintain and develop programming and facilities (including park programs) for active play and recreation.
- Ensure safety and cleanliness of existing parks
- Promote community wide access to existing parks
- Collaborate with Park and Recreation Directors and staff to redress park inequities (ensure quality and quantity programming, creation and enhancement of facilities, etc.)
- Work with city departments to explore redevelopment of vacant lots to play spaces.