



Civil Engineers for Infrastructure Political Action Committee Questionnaire for LA County Supervisor Race 2016

Civil Engineers for Infrastructure (CE4i) is a Political Action Committee that believes the public has a right to a continued enhancement of the quality of life. Infrastructure must remain a top priority. Public safety, education, healthcare, and the economy grow from a foundation of a reliable infrastructure. Prioritizing infrastructure is dependent on an informed public, a motivated legislature, and leadership from the engineering profession.

The following questions will allow CE4i to better understand your position on infrastructure related issues. We plan to share your responses with our membership and in our newsletter distributions. We may also share your responses with media outlets. Please submit your responses by Tuesday, December 8th.

Based on your responses and additional factors, CE4i may be able to support you during your campaign. We may also invite you to a meet and greet mixer to help you raise funds for your campaign.

Name: STEVE NAPOLITANO

LA County Supervisor District (please circle): **4**

Contact Email: steve@stevenapolitano.com

**For each of the following questions, please answer “Yes” or “No”.
If no, please explain why.**

1. Do you support raising the gas tax if the funds go strictly to improving our transportation infrastructure?

Probably not. While the gas tax made sense in the past, it makes less sense going forward when our goals have shifted to energy conservation, increased fuel efficiency and increased alternative fuel car models so that we'd have to constantly increase the tax to backfill the financial losses for the environmental gains. It's also turned into an inequitable system where gas consumers pay more than or all of the tax for hybrid or all electric vehicles, and the regressive nature of the tax hits the poor harder than the well to do who can more easily afford the alternative fuel vehicles. I want to increase funding for transportation, but I think there are better and fairer alternatives than raising the gas tax.

2. Do you support sales tax rate increases if the funding goes directly to improving our transportation infrastructure (like another Measure R)?

Yes, as long as the new funding went to new projects.

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3. Do you support requiring property owners to upgrade their buildings for seismic resiliency?

Yes, it's safer and more economical for all involved.

4. Do you support high speed rail in the State of California?

I support the concept, but the current proposal is not transparent enough and the price tag should not be a moving target, which only serves to undermine public support for this as well as other large public works projects. Let's be up front about the costs and timing and the steps that need to be taken. That's how you build support, that's how you build high speed rail.

5. Do you support additional revenue streams dedicated to increasing recycled water supply for the County of Los Angeles?

We absolutely need to make recycled water a budget priority—does that mean we need additional revenue streams to do that or rework and reprioritize funding we already have? I'd need to look at that first.

6. Do you support creating a new revenue stream dedicated to stormwater quality improvement for the County of Los Angeles?

I'm not sure support is the right word, since this is really an unfunded federal mandate, but I think the need for additional funds is unavoidable. I've worked on this issue at the County level, and the prior Clean Water/Clean Beaches parcel tax proposal was the wrong approach done in the wrong way. Regardless, we know the costs and the MS4 requirements aren't going away and that addressing it on a regional basis makes the most sense and I foresee a better approach in the near future that will increase funding and meet our storm water improvement requirements.

For each of the following questions, please provide a brief response.

7. Why should civil engineers support you instead of the other candidates?

I've got 25 years experience in local government, from serving on commissions and as a Mayor/City Councilmember for the City of Manhattan Beach, and as Senior Deputy to Supervisor Knabe for the past 10 years. I've overseen and directed the building of community centers, libraries, storm drains, street improvements, parks, water reservoirs and many other things. I currently oversee Supervisor Knabe's Operation Libraries, where we're building several new libraries and remodeling several others. I also oversee the redevelopment of Marina del Rey and the accompanying public works projects. I'm a builder and a doer. Nobody else running knows the Fourth District like I do, no other candidate running has as much experience coming up with or directing projects like I have and no other candidate will do more in terms of infrastructure improvement as Supervisor than I will.

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8. If elected, what are your top three priorities?

I've got a lot more than three, but the first priority of government as far as I'm concerned is public safety, fiscal sustainability and infrastructure. These are the quality of life building blocks that create healthy, thriving communities, jobs and services. They're really more values than priorities, because they are things to consider when making any other decisions. We need safe streets so that people feel free to engage in their communities and feel secure where they live. We need fiscal sustainability so that we can afford the programs and services that our people and communities want and need. And we need to be constantly improving our infrastructure to effectively and efficiently move people and goods, and to protect and enhance our environment and safety.

9. What infrastructure topic or topics are you most familiar with? Which one(s) would you like to know more about?

At this point, there's little about infrastructure that I'm not familiar with, but as a life-long learner I'm always ready to learn more, especially in the area of sustainability, since that is a growing and evolving consideration in any project these days. I've overseen the building of libraries, community centers, roads, storm drain improvements, you name it. I'm really interested in the shift from storm runoff to water retention though, and I'm a BIG supporter of that and would like to learn more about how we can increase our efforts.

10. If elected, will you seek out individuals with scientific and/or engineering backgrounds? Will you appoint them to certain committees and/or boards? Or hire them as staff? Have you done this in the past (if applicable)?

Absolutely. And I'd love your recommendations in making those appointments. I don't do political appointments, I appoint the right people with the right expertise to do the job.

11. What is your vision on reducing traffic congestion and increasing goods movement both in your jurisdiction and regionally?

There is no lack of plans to achieve these goals, the trick is in implementing them. In terms of goods movement, we need to invest in the areas and access points surrounding our airports and ports. The 710 corridor is a good example of long overdue improvements that they're still arguing about and are just now getting ready to study, and they can't even agree on what to study yet. I think rail is also a crucial element of goods movement that we need more of as it's more environmentally friendly than trucking. In terms of reducing traffic congestion, we need to concentrate growth and development around multi-modal transportation hubs that allows people to ditch their cars. This is hardly a new suggestion, and it's great in concept, but the reality is that whenever anyone talks about increasing the density to achieve the necessary critical mass, there's an uproar to kill it before it starts. The only answer to this kind of paradox is leadership and public buy-in, two things that seem to be lacking in our transportation efforts and which I'd like to change.

Additionally, can expect to receive more funds locally from the recently approved federal transportation bill, but the question is whether we're going to take full advantage of it, and whether the benefits will be spread on a regional basis. Right now, the perception in many

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communities is that the vast majority of transportation dollars goes to the City of Los Angeles and the 87 other cities in LA County aren't getting their fair share. I'd like to see two additional board members added to the Metro Board for smaller communities, so that they have a voice and we can see a fair allocation of resources.

12. What is your vision to ensure LA County has reliable water sources? How do you intend to fund this vision?

Beyond increased conservation and water efficiency, we need expanded recycled water generation (which includes the idea of 'toilet to tap'), more permissible gray water programs, and capturing rain runoff whenever it happens, among other things. We're also going to have to do a lot of these things on the individual level and not just the macro level. Australia provides good examples of this, where runoff and recycling happen at the individual home level. We also need to address our aging infrastructure so that we're not sending millions of gallons of water into the streets and storm drains from old broken water mains while we spend funds on new technologies. Part of the funding for this can be addressed in just rethinking the projects we're already funding—the roads, gutters, storm drains and park designs should include water retention and recharging as part of their purpose. New projects would require new funding, but that's a matter of priorities, and nothing is a higher priority than water.

13. Please share any information you would like to add.

I'm trying to say a lot here without saying too much and keeping things of a reasonable length, but please know that I'd be happy to answer any additional questions. I'd also like to thank you for the opportunity to answer these questions and I hope to get your support because I truly do understand your value and I envision putting together a technical advisory group to assist me on these issues as Supervisor, of which I'd love for your members to be a part of. As you recognize in your questions, we've got some serious issues to address and a serious price tag that goes with them, and they're issues that have been put off far too long. I don't want to put them off any longer.

I'm running for Supervisor to do things, not to just be elected and have a title. I'm running on a proven record of results and ideas that make a difference, and that includes constant improvement of our infrastructure. I encourage you to look at my bio and record at my website, www.stevenapolitano.com, and I look forward to speaking with you further.

Thanks!