



**Questionnaire for candidates for the office of
California Secretary of State**
Statewide Direct Primary Election, June 3, 2014

Please return this questionnaire electronically to contact_us@phdemclub.org no later than **Wednesday, March 26**. We will make these questionnaires available to our members before the forum/endorsement meeting.

Candidate name: Alex Padilla
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Please write a brief response (≤ 250 words) to each question.

1. What do you see as the 3 top priorities for the next California Secretary of State, and what ideas do you have for addressing these priorities once you are in office?

Expand Voter Participation

In the last Presidential Election more than 10 million Californians did not vote. I am running for Secretary of State to change that. I will be a visible, vocal leader working to increase voter participation by drumming up excitement about voting and civic engagement. I will visit high schools and work with teachers and schools to encourage high school seniors to pre-register to vote.

I will work to make voting easier and more accessible. I want to incorporate the latest technology into our elections administration so voters can choose from many convenient options for voting – voting by mail, voting at the polls either by your home or by your work and voting early in person.

Increase Campaign Finance Transparency

I've introduced a tough package of campaign finance reforms that call for a ban on fundraising during the last 100 days of the legislative session, more frequent disclosure of campaign contributions and online reporting of campaign communications. To increase voter participation, we must restore Californians' faith

in government. I'm committed to passing these reforms in the State Legislature and implementing them as Secretary of State.

Create Jobs

The largest division of the Secretary of State's office is the business unit responsible for processing business filings so California businesses can open their doors. Long wait times for businesses filings keep businesses from creating jobs. I will modernize the Secretary of State's office to bring filings online and reduce processing times to 5 business days.

2. How would you deal with voters' concerns in the aftermath of *Citizens United* about the corrupting influence of big (getting bigger each election cycle) money in politics?

I am a strong supporter of increasing transparency and limiting the influence of special interests in campaigns. I am a cosponsor of the DISCLOSE Act and am proud that I received a 100% score on the California Clean Money Scorecard. As Secretary of State, I would work to enact a public financing system modeled on the City of Los Angeles program that provides incentives for grassroots contributors and levels the playing field for challengers.

As a Senator, I am not waiting to become Secretary of State to push for campaign reforms. As discussed above, I have introduced a package of bills this year to institute a legislative blackout period on fundraising, require timely disclosure of contributions within five business days, limit candidates to fundraising for one office at a time, and implement an online system for public disclosure of campaign communications.

I am proud to have been a strong opponent of Proposition 32 which would have limited the voices of working people in our democracy. We must ensure that working people have a strong voice in our government that isn't drowned up by millionaires, billionaires and corporations. That's why I personally raised funds to defeat Proposition 32 and direct No on 32 campaign communications in my own district.

3. Why are you better suited to serve as California's top election official than any other candidate?

My public service over the past 15 years has prepared me to lead. Throughout my career I have built working coalitions, earned the support of my colleagues and managed large organizations. While on the Los Angeles City Council for 7 1/2 years, I was elected by my colleagues to serve as Council President. During that time, my colleagues in local government throughout California elected me President of the League of Cities. Currently, I serve as President of the National Association of Latino Elected Officials, representing over 6,000 elected and appointed officials throughout the nation and working hard to pass comprehensive immigration reform in Washington, DC.

In the State Senate, I have worked to get things done with over 80 of my bills signed into law by the Governor. Among those bills, are laws to improve public health by posting nutritional information on fast food menus and laws aimed at reducing our

dependence on fossil fuels by increasing renewable energy use and making it easier to build solar plants.

I am building a broad, diverse coalition throughout the State in this campaign. I am honored to be endorsed by Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom, San Francisco District Attorney George Gascon, San Francisco Supervisor Scott Weiner, San Francisco Latino Democrats, California League of Conservation Voters, United Farm Workers, Firefighters and Police Officers. I worked hard to build a grassroots base earning 59% of the vote at the California Democratic Convention.

It would be my honor to earn your support.

Thank you for your time and commitment. We look forward to seeing you April 1st.