

# Gayle McLaughlin's Priorities for California

## 1. Single-Payer 'Medicare for All'

Health care is not a commodity. Healthy California Act, SB 562, will ensure we all get the healthcare we need, when we need it, with the provider of our choice. No more insurance premiums, co-pays, and deductibles. Workers and government will save billions each year. Private Insurance and Big Pharma want to kill it. Corporate-controlled legislators are stalling it. Let's fight for it!

## 2. Free College California

California needs to offer its residents tuition-free attendance at public four-year colleges, universities and community colleges. Community college students need to be included in scholarships, and students from families with fewer resources should get more, not less as currently proposed by some Legislators in Sacramento. Free College, No debt!

## 3. Split-Roll Proposition 13 Reform

Our schools used to be top in the nation. The corporate abuse of Proposition 13 sent CA schools to the bottom. Prop 13 is good to protect seniors and folks on fixed incomes, but multi-billion dollar companies like Chevron should not take advantage of it. Corporations are not people. Let's close the corporate loopholes!

## 4. No-Fracking in California

To frack, the oil companies use 80 billion gallons a year of our scarce California water and they pump their waste, containing many cancer-causing chemicals, into protected aquifers supplying drinking water. Ten counties and our ocean are already suffering the consequences. We don't need fracking, ban it!

## 5. Oil Severance Tax

California is the only major oil producing state without an extraction tax. The Oil industry is getting a free ride. A 9.5% extraction tax on the value of oil and natural gas could raise more than \$1.5 billion annually. In 2014 the oil industry spent \$17 million on California state races. California legislators intimidated by the oil industry are denying us what Alaskans and Texans get. Use the money from this oil extraction tax to fund renewable energy projects that reduce fossil fuel dependency

## 6. Millionaires Tax

California needs a real Millionaires tax. We need one that is more progressive and raises the rate of the tax as the income increases. I propose a tax increase that goes up 1% from the current tax rate for each million dollars of taxable income (up to a 12% increase for incomes of \$12 million or more). This Fair Share tax would raise billions that could be used to help fix our education system and generate jobs by repairing infrastructure.

## 7. Aid to California Cities for Sustainable Development

Sacramento recently closed down some 400 Redevelopment Agencies (RA) effectively seizing billions of tax dollars that poor cities used to fight blight and improve conditions. Cities received nothing in return and the new "Community Revitalization and Investment Authorities" law is full of obstacles and requirements. Bring back local tax money to poor communities!

## 8. Defend Immigrant Rights

No human being is illegal. The rights and liberties guaranteed by our constitution apply to all immigrants, regardless of immigration status. I support a comprehensive immigration reform with a path to citizenship. Our country has a some responsibility in the economic, environmental and military disasters that underlie massive migrations. Let's make California a Sanctuary State!



## **9. Building Affordable Housing**

Rent control stops the bleeding. Eliminate the Costa-Hawkins Act, which prevents rent control on more than half the units. Have a fair statewide rent control law and just cause for eviction. Promote 'real' low-income housing with massive tax incentives, higher taxes on luxury construction, and participation in 'land trust' developments. Statewide Rent Control and low income housing now!

## **10. Defending Public Education and Opposing the Privatization Education and Opposing the Expansion of Charter Schools**

Charter school chains are draining resources, creaming the student crop, and counseling out the difficult and "less profitable" students. School districts must be in the hands of those who truly believe in the promise of quality public education for all. Petitions to start or renew a charter school must be approved exclusively by the local school board. "No!" to privatizing public education.

## **11. Supporting Union Organizing**

I'm the daughter of unionized carpenter. Today we need unions more than ever. The weaker our unions the higher our inequality. Unions pull up all workers and enforce workplace health and safety. I support universal majority sign-up or 'card checks', prevailing wage laws, and project labor agreements, and 'real penalties' for employers who violate labor laws. The United Farm Workers should also be covered by the 'card check' law, which Governor Brown vetoed in 2011. Real penalties for anti-union bullies!

## **12. Campaign Finance Reform**

Evict corporate money out of politics. Corporations are not people. Money is not free speech. Our democratic system is corrupted by the toxic influence and intimidation of corporate money. I never accepted a penny of corporate money for any of my campaigns. In spite of the Supreme Court current decision (Citizens United), we must make corporate money in our elections illegal. No votes for anyone taking corporate money!

## **13. Opposing the Privatization of Jails and Detention Centers**

It is absurd to use private-for-profit businesses as institutions to rehabilitate the inmates. The goal of this approach is to have more inmates, not less. The rates of physical assault are higher in many of the eight state private prisons, and thousands of California inmates are housed in these private prisons in other states, away from family support. End the privatization of jails and prisons! Pay an acceptable minimum wage to firefighters who are prisoners, do not postpone their mandated release to secure the numbers needed, and change the laws to allow them to be hired after their release. No more prisoners' abuse for money!

## **14. California Needs A Public Bank**

A bank owned by the people's government like the Bank of North Dakota. It can save money and finance public-works projects and priorities, such as affordable housing, infrastructure repair, roads, schools and hospitals, and assist non-traditional industries. In 2012 there was an attempt with AB2500, supported by CCISCO, PICO California, the Public Banking Institute, and some churches. The bill was killed by corporate controlled legislators influenced by the California Bankers Association. I will make it a priority for California to have a Public Bank! Our money, Our power!

## **15. Elections Integrity**

Since Citizens United passed, corporations have gone on "elections shopping sprees". Corporate money destroys our democracy. We need to educate and mobilize to include in the California constitution that "corporations are not people and money is not free speech". As we advance towards that, we need changes that assure more integrity in our elections: 1) In the 2020 primary, the 4 million California voters who are No Party Preference (NPP), like myself, should get their ballots in the mail, it should be a ballot that allows us to vote for the candidates of the parties who allow it, and we should not be forced to ask for an "NPP/Dem" ballot. 2) "No Party Preference" should be identified clearly and specifically as the option if the voter wants to be independent of all political parties. The lack of clarity had many registering with the "Independent Party", when they wanted to be NPP. 3) We also need uniformity in poll worker training, uniformity in poll procedures, and a robust audit of all ballots including Late Vote by Mail ballots. Corporate money out of elections, clear, fair and uniform rules in them!