

March 7, 2017 Municipal Election

## LAUSD School Board Candidate Briefing & Questionnaire

For MONICA GARCIA – LAUSD, BOARD DISTRICT 2

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1. What would you do to leverage the school district's food purchasing power and expand its commitment to the Good Food Purchasing Program? How will you ensure that all five values of the Good Food Purchasing Policy (healthy, sustainable, local, fair and humane) are preserved in the district's food purchases?

Particular to the two values where we could be stronger on I would share the following:

I believe that **animal welfare** is the collective responsibility of us all. Your partnership and information on details with regards to the specific practices of vendors have in the past, and can continue into the future, help inform the decisions the Board takes. The partnership can continue to inform what parameters our food procurement can assess as they make decisions on what vendors it recommend for contracts. I would like to make sure more information is shared about the details of animal care for products we purchase. Everything from proper handling of animals, to their health care, and giving them an environment appropriate to their care is important. Animal fear, pain, stress, suffering, housing and daily management should matter to us all. The more we know about how animals are being treated the better decisions we can make about the products we decide to consume. That also extends to us knowing if the animals lived a life free from pain, injury and disease, excess antibiotics and animal testing.

When it comes to **environmental sustainability**, like animal welfare, I'd like to continue to partner so that our knowledge base can inform what parameters our procurement team can assess as they make decisions on what vendors to recommend for contracts. I want to base those decisions on sustainability practices companies engage in. At LAUSD we want to support greener more efficient beef production, practices that support good air quality, and agriculture that does not over impose on the land. More over, I would like to find how we can be more local and reduce energy consumption (fuel required to transport

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the cattle to slaughter and then to market). Moreover, I understand there is action coming that I will also support to create some pilot vegan choices at school sties.

Last but not least, as the February 14<sup>th</sup> vote approaches on the alternative to Tyson chicken is presented I am happy to share that I will vote in the direction of progress that evening. I am confident that will help our points on the Good Food purchasing score increase on the above mentioned parameters. I am thankful for your advocacy in our effort towards sourcing 100% antibiotic-free chicken.

2. If you are elected, how will you increase participation in school meal programs and support schools in becoming champions for nutritious food access? How will you influence meal programs to encourage greater progress in healthy eating?

- A. I want to continue to build on past successful initiatives by supporting an expansion of our breakfast in the classroom into a hot supper initiative. We don't want any child to be food insecure; we want all students healthy and ready to learn.
- B. I want to create and support policy that helps more students not just eat more, but eat healthy. I want to support a program that is about how we support an aspirational version of healthy; One where we re-imagine what it means to eat healthy and reorganize, in time, the culture of what is deemed appetizing among youth. I want to find partners that can help us reset the culture of what looks and taste's good. For years we have been battling the challenges of having healthy food go to waste in mass and unhealthy alternatives being more popular among students. It may be time we take a deeper look at the presentation of our food or the typical menu we offer.

3. What would you do to strengthen and expand the district's support

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for school gardens?

In my Board District there is an opportunity to push more joint use agreements that allow LAUSD families and neighboring residents the ability to access and grow food on campus. I am interested in finding schools who see this strategy as part of their community engagement as well as community school model. When we understand how a school can be an asset in the community to students and families beyond being a place of traditional learning we are adding impact to activities that happen in the vicinity around our school site asset. My thought is that any program with a policy to allow on-site composting of food waste should be included in the planned garden activities.

4. Would you support healthy food carts outside of LAUSD schools?

I would need to learn more about the details of the proposal but yes I support the need to keep healthy food around students inside and outside our schools.

5. What would you do to increase the effectiveness of these food waste efforts in LAUSD? How will you ensure each school participates in these programs? Would you support composting the cafeteria food scraps in school gardens?

I would like to see the increased effectiveness of these food waste efforts at LAUSD by adopting a strategy that makes that structure self-sustaining. I would ask the Superintendent to recommend options and operational activities that would get us there. As we continue to move towards de-centralization I would like to have schools keep their net savings or revenue from such systems that can in turn augment learning activities at the school site. I believe there is also an opportunity to

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work with our Facilities Department team who support gardens to have a better understanding of what supports site faculty have.

Yes, I would support composting the cafeteria food scraps in school gardens.