

Sam Jammal – Candidate Forum 1 Audience Questions

If you are interested in learning more about our campaign, please visit www.sam4congress.com.

- 1) We live in a very diverse district populated by several ethnicities. How will you interface with them? For example, Latino community, Korean community, Caucasian community, Vietnamese community, Chinese community, Chicano community.**

My life has been living, advocating and working in diverse communities. I come from a mixed race background - Latino and Arab American - my parents are immigrants from the South America and the Middle East. Because diversity is such a big part of who I am, I started my career in civil rights. While at the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), I advocated for Latino and immigrant communities on civil rights, education and immigration issues. I was most recently on the board of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights Los Angeles (CHIRLA), which has a regional presence advocating for immigrant communities.

The diversity of the 39th District is what makes us so unique. In any one of our cities, you can experience cultures from around the world. As a candidate and, if elected, your Congressman, I will embrace the rich diversity of our district and be a voice for all. This includes being accessible in whatever language a community is comfortable with and going into the community to listen.

- 2) How should the Democratic Party help our candidates?**

Voter registration and engagement will be essential for 2018. Non-presidential elections tend to see significant drop off in our community, so it will be essential that the Democratic Party be engaged early with currently registered voters and identify new voters to register.

- 3) In your opinion are our Party's leaders ready and able to help our candidates?**

Yes. We all share the same concerns with the direction of our country and how Republican policies will impact our community. The party has already been visible and offered forums, such as this, for candidates to get to know voters. Moving forward, I look forward to continuing to participate in similar forums and working with the Democratic Party to have a conversation with voters.

- 4) Do you think Nancy Pelosi has overstayed her usefulness as a leader and should be replaced?**

As a fellow Californian, I respect Nancy Pelosi and appreciate what she's done for the Democratic Party, especially when it comes to the Affordable Care Act becoming law and her tireless advocacy during the Bush Administration. Right now, I am most focused on reconnecting with voters in our community and starting a conversation on how we can improve people's lives. My focus is on defeating Ed Royce in 2018.

- 5) From watching the Rep's in Congress, do you think that it is possible to work with your colleagues across the aisle?**

Yes. I have done this throughout my career. As a young attorney at MALDEF, I led a coalition of civil rights organizations against English Only legislation pushed by a Republican Senator. After months of opposition, I decided to try to identify points of agreement, which led me to work with then-Senator Hillary Clinton on bipartisan legislation with the Republican Senator that would increase funding for English language education and immigrant integration without jeopardizing core civil rights. As a Counsel in the U.S. Senate and Chief of Staff in the U.S. House, I also worked with Republican offices on bipartisan patent legislation and a number of bills focused

on job creation. Most recently, while advocating for clean energy, my job was to build bipartisan coalitions in support of solar energy.

While there is a lot of division in politics these days, I do believe there is a desire for new leaders to come in and identify areas of consensus and work together towards improving our country. Throughout my career I have done this and would do so as your Congressman.

6) If you win and have the ability to pick 3 committees to serve on, which committees would you chose?

Before making any committee decision, I would hold a meeting with community leaders to discuss what committee would best serve our interests. Based on my experience as Chief of Staff in Congress, the committees I believe that would best serve our community are: Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means and Education and Labor. Energy and Commerce is the jobs committee in Congress and we need to get to work to create good-paying jobs right here in the 39th District. Ways and Means is the tax writing committee, which has reach in to all of the kitchen table issues I am advocating for. For example, I believe we need to expand homeowner deductions to help families pay their mortgage and encourage new home buyers. Lastly, Education and Labor plays a critical role in crafting policies to educate our youth and workers. It is essential that we invest in training young people for the next generation of jobs.

7) How do you plan to work towards wage equality for all?

Right now, the topline economic numbers show strong employment, but underneath the surface, workers are struggling. Many workers in our community have not had a raise in years. As a result, families are struggling to pay their bills and so few of us are saving for retirement. This is why unions are such a critical part of the equation - they enable workers to collectively organize for better wages. My plan starts with empowering workers to have a voice. The decrease in union rates coincides with the decrease in wages so many of us have experienced. We need strong unions in order to preserve the middle class.

Additionally, we need to focus on job creation. The best way to address wage equality is by creating good-paying, middle class jobs. I did this while working in clean energy and will do this as your Congressman. We can create good paying jobs by investing in infrastructure and clean energy.

Lastly, we need to make sure our tax code prioritizes workers over CEOs, which means rewarding work and focusing tax cuts on the middle class as opposed to the wealthy. Right now, Ed Royce and the Republican Congress are focused on pushing tax cuts for the wealthy and continuing the wealth disparities defining our economy.

Please share your ideas by emailing me at sam@sam4congress.com. This is a challenging issue that will require us telling our story and finding solutions that fit our community.

8) What specific strategies will your campaign use to engage citizens who have previously been non-voters?

The best way to engage a voter and nonvoter is to talk to them. Too often campaigns are focused just on mail and TV without enough of a focus on grassroots conversations in the community. My campaign is focused on grassroots organizing that will rely on neighbor to neighbor conversations in our community. This includes going into neighborhoods where we haven't spoken to voters and encouraging their participation. If you would like to join us in this outreach, sign up at www.sam4congress.com/join.

9) Should the Democratic Party move left? Do you feel that it really needs to? Does it get to?

I believe the Democratic Party needs to do two things: (1) be bold; and (2) focus on the basics. First, we are the party of big ideas. We set the marker for where America should go. This means we must embrace bold policies like universal health care and 100% clean energy. People expect Democrats to dream big and we should embrace our history of being the party of bold ideas.

We also need to get back to the basics on focus on the issues families are struggling with - getting a raise, paying for health care, saving for retirement and, most likely if they are under 40, paying off student debt. As Democrats, we built the foundation for today's middle class. It's our job to protect it from the many assaults coming from Donald Trump and Ed Royce. Too many families are struggling to get by and we lost them because they saw we stopped focusing on helping them get ahead.

10) What do you think is the best economic system? Why?

Responsible capitalism. We are the country where an immigrant from Diamond Bar can have an idea and turn it into a small business serving her community. We must continue to support and promote our small business owners and entrepreneurs. Successful small businesses provide the revenue that helps pay for roads, schools and the services we need in our community. They also provide the can do spirit that is the lifeblood of our community.

At the same time, we must have a balance and not solely promote the interests of business at the expense of workers. The role of government is to be an advocate for those in need and referee potential abuses by business. It's a careful balance, but it is how we built a great country and will be able to build a better future.

11) What specific ideas do you have to help Americans pay for higher education and Congressional funded student loans?

Student debt is a personal issue for me. I grew up in a working class family and the only way I could go to college was by working part-time jobs and taking on student debt. I still carry significant student debt from college and law school.

There is currently an entire generation saddled with student debt that is impacting their ability to buy homes, save for the future and start businesses. Student debt is dragging down our economy and too few politicians are focused on this.

We must first get the cost of education under control. Near annual increases in tuition in the UC and Cal State system are harming today's students. Schools must show more restraint in increasing tuition and the state and federal government must fund our schools.

We also must cap the interest rate on federal student loans at the rate of inflation. The federal government should not be making a profit on students. This only increases the debt owed and shapes the broader loan market by encouraging higher interest rates.

Additionally, I recommend we raise the tax deduction for student loans - both the amount and capped salary for receiving a deduction. We should be rewarding people for trying to improve their lives by pursuing higher education. Right now, with the rising costs of education, we are penalizing the very thing we should be encouraging.

I believe we need to be creative to solve our student debt crisis and am open to any and all ideas. Please email me at sam@sam4congress.com.

12) What can you say to us today that will guarantee us that when you get to Washington you will not become complacent and forget to come back and meet with constituents?

My childhood home is just a couple of minutes outside the district and I spent my youth in our communities. I still remember the people I met at restaurants I worked at in La Habra and retail jobs at the Brea Mall. I will never forget our community because it is who I am and defined me at an early age.

As your Congressman, I pledge to hold a monthly in-person town hall to answer questions. I also will use technology - Facebook Live, Twitter and any other methods - to make sure we are having an ongoing conversation on the issues. We should never have a situation, like we do today, where an issue as important as health care is being discussed and our Congressman is invisible.

13) If the repeal of the ACA goes through will you commit to Single Payer?

I believe I am the only candidate in the race currently advocating for Medicare for All. You can see my position at www.sam4congress.com/priorities. In the private sector, we invested in what works and scale it. Since the 1960's, Medicare has worked for our seniors. We first must protect it and then we must expand it for not just our seniors, but working Americans. This will give consumers more leverage on drug prices and the overall cost of health care will go down. The current system is severely flawed and leads to the U.S. spending more money on health care compared to every other country in the developed world. Our economy cannot compete if so much of our expenses are tied in to rising health care costs.

14) Why should we vote for you?

I have spent my entire career fighting injustice. This comes from the values I learned right here in our community. My childhood home is a little over a mile outside the district. My youth and early adulthood was spent working jobs in our community. My family's immigrant and working class story is the same story experienced by so many in our community.

I took these experiences with me as I pursued a career in civil rights fighting to correct injustice. I then worked in Congress to help our economy recover from the Great Recession and pass policies like the ACA, which would ensure families would no longer go bankrupt if they got sick. From there, I worked in President Obama's Administration and focused on job creation at the Department of Commerce. Most recently, I was in the private sector building the clean energy economy - which created jobs right here in the 39th District while also protecting our environment.

We have one job in our community for 2018 - defeat Ed Royce. This is the only way we can put a check on Donald Trump and his anti-middle class policies. But defeating Ed Royce will require more than telling voters to fire him. They will need to hire a replacement. Because of my background in senior roles in business and government, I have the experience to be an advocate for all of us while also sharing the values of our community.

You can learn more about my campaign at www.sam4congress.com. I welcome the opportunity to sit down and discuss how we can improve our community.

15) Will you pledge to unite behind whoever wins the primary to redirect resources to ensure this district gets the representative they need and deserve?

I plan to win, but, if unsuccessful, I will absolutely support the Democratic nominee. Ed Royce is not representing the people of California's 39th District. He comes off as a bipartisan guy when he's back home in the district, but when he votes, he supports policies that hurt people in our district.

For example, 403,100 people in our district have health insurance through their jobs and are now at risk of losing important consumer protections like the ban on annual and lifetime limits, protections against unfair policy rescissions, and coverage of preexisting health conditions, because of attempts to repeal the ACA by Ed Royce.

16) With regards to trade policy, which do you prefer? Buy American or Globalization?

Buy American. The job of the U.S government should be first and foremost to create American jobs right here at home. I did this while at the Department of Commerce and in my work at SolarCity and Tesla - which is the number one manufacturer in the state of California.

17) Will you commit to a vigorous, earnest but not divisive or toxic campaign?

Yes. I am running a grassroots campaign focused on empowering communities throughout our district. The only way to defeat a well-funded incumbent like Ed Royce is by empowering communities and building a movement focused on rising up all of our voices.

18) Will you agree to endorse the Democratic candidate that makes it past the primaries, even if it is not you?

Yes, it's important to have someone who will represent the people of California's 39th Congressional District. If I win, I'll work to make sure the people who Ed Royce didn't listen to are heard. If I don't, I'll work with my Democratic colleague to ensure they've got the support they need to get Ed Royce out.

19) Do you support federal funding for the Arts including NEA, NEH, and CPC? How will you demonstrate this support?

Yes. The arts define us as a culture. Artists have been such a critical part of not just our culture, but our economy. NEA, NEH and CPS help build an artist community that has helped us thrive. Beyond funding for these programs, we also must ensure that housing remains affordable and education accessible so we don't price out artists.

20) For the first time, millennials will pass baby boomers as the largest generation of Americans eligible to vote. What will be your message to millennials and how would you motivate them to vote for you?

I am a millennial and will be an advocate to make sure my generation has a seat at the table. Part of the reason I am running is to ensure that the next generation doesn't continue to fall behind. We are the generation experiencing the lowest rates of homeownership, record levels of student debt and a job market that slowed the start of so many of our careers. The only way to remedy this is for our generation to step up and engage in the political process.

More broadly, we are the generation that is most concerned and will have to deal with the consequences of climate change. I spent the last two years helping to build a clean energy economy and understand firsthand just how critical of a threat climate change is. My campaign will be focused on solutions - like a transition to 100% clean energy - that will not only help our planet, but also create the jobs of the future that will employ our generation.

I welcome ideas on how to motivate millennial voters. Please email me at sam@sam4congress.com.

21) The 29th District is very diverse and is increasing its Asian- American and Arab-American population. There is a bill in Congress now, H.R. 1697, which criminalizes anyone who would boycott Israel and its policies. Would you support such a controversial bill?

I am not familiar with this legislation, but will be happy to sit down with the community to discuss the legislation and their concerns. Ultimately, when it comes to Israel and Palestine, I support a two state solution. We must work to find a long lasting peace. Please email me at sam@sam4congress.com to discuss this legislation.

22) In 2016, Hillary Clinton wanted to add 500 million retroactive solar panels throughout the country. How will you advance that goal in Congress?

I spent the last two years working in clean energy and a large portion of that time was with SolarCity. I am very familiar with solar and the policies we need to increase adoption. Much of my work focused on helping renters and low income families adopt solar. In order to increase adoption, we first need to make sure it's affordable for everyone and second, we need to educate consumers on the benefits of solar. On my priorities page, I discuss the importance of transitioning to 100% clean energy. You can learn more here: www.sam4congress.com/priorities.

23) How do you plan to excite the voters to get involved in this race? Not just Democrats?

Voters get excited when someone is speaking to their concerns and running a campaign that talks to them. My campaign, as discussed earlier, will focus on those kitchen table issues so many of us are concerned about. Too many of us are falling behind and we don't have a voice in Washington.

I am also building a grassroots team that will go directly to voters. This is particularly important for Latinos and young people who tend to vote in lower rates for primary elections. If you would like to join our campaign, email me at sam@sam4congress.com.

24) Much of our country's income issues are a function not of organic forces but of deliberate, concerted efforts by wealthy interests to increase their wealth while making it harder for the rest of us to do anything about it. What are you going to do about this issue?

The best way to stop this is to defeat Ed Royce and end the Republican majority in Congress. As long as we have a Congress solely favorable to the interests of the most wealthy, we will continue to seeing growing income inequality.

More so, we need fewer millionaires and more regular people in Congress. I worked in Congress and saw firsthand that it is a playground for the most wealthy. Most Members of Congress today are millionaires and only view the world from the eyes of the most wealthy - not communities like ours where people are concerned about how they will be able to for their prescription drugs or higher utility bills. I come from a working class background, still carry student debt and, like many of you, still face daily economic challenges. We need representatives connected to the struggles we all are facing.

You can learn more about my priorities at www.sam4congress.com/priorities. Over the coming months, I will lay out proposals building an economy that works for all of us. Please send me a note with your ideas to sam@sam4congress.com.

25) When you talk about organizing? What do you really mean?

I worked on the Obama campaign. When I speak about organizing, I mean neighbor to neighbor conversations and in-person voter contact. We will only beat Ed Royce if we build a grassroots army. This will involve identifying neighborhood leaders, hosting house parties and having the one on one conversations that identify community leaders who can get their neighbors excited to vote.

If you are interested in hosting a house party in your home or neighborhood, send me an email at sam@sam4congress.com. It doesn't take much - just bringing friends and families together to discuss ways we can improve our community.

26) What is your position on the "Israel Anti-Boycott Act", a bill opposed by the ACLU because it would criminalize the non-violent resistance act of boycotting Israel?

I am not familiar with the details of the legislation, but I am familiar with the work of the ACLU and the need to find peace in the Middle East. One of my earliest internships in college was with the ACLU. And I started the first ACLU chapter at my law school. Right now, the ACLU is our last line of defense against abuses by the Trump Administration.

With regards to Israel and Palestine, I support the two state solution and will work tirelessly to do my part to make sure both sides come to the table. We can connect lose another generation to the conflict. I will work with everyone in our community to make sure we are a voice for solutions and peace.

Please email me at sam@sam4congress.com to set up a meeting to discuss this legislation.

27) What will you do to protect our natural resources both locally & nationally?

Here in the 39th District, we are blessed with open spaces, like Chino Hills State Park and many of our parks and hiking trails in each city. More so, we are blessed to live in California - the most beautiful state in the country.

This is why so many of us are conservationists regardless of political party. We want to preserve nature because we see the beauty in our community.

I am an environmentalist and have worked in clean energy. One of my first jobs in college was at the Sierra Club where I advocated for preserving a mountain trail near Los Angeles. Most recently, I was an executive at SolarCity and Tesla. I believe it's essential to preserve our environment and protect our natural resources. I also believe we should transition from fossil fuels towards clean energy in order to make sure our air and water is clean and we aren't destroying the beauty of California with pollution.

Unlike Ed Royce, I will make sure the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has the resources it needs to protect our environment and will be an advocate locally and nationally for protecting public lands.

You can learn more about my environmental priorities by visiting www.sam4congress.com/priorities.

28) You are all focused on beating Royce. Can you discuss ways in which all of you can cooperate together to make that a possibility?

The benefit of the a contested primary is that different pockets of the district will be hearing from candidates - many for the first time. This is a positive for our bigger goal of defeating Ed Royce. Together we can do more to

register voters since we still have large segments of the district with lower voter registration rates than should be the norm.

29) Are you a Democratic Socialist or a Neoliberal?

I am a lifelong Democrat from Northern Orange County/ LA County. My values are those I learned growing up here - work hard to get ahead, give back to the community and make sure we have a government that still makes the American Dream possible no matter who you are.

30) Are you a believer of addressing the issues or identity politics?

I don't quite understand the question. I believe it's important to have a Congressman with local roots, experience and the desire to fight for all in our community. You can learn more about me and my priorities by visiting www.sam4congress.com.

31) Are you Berniecrat or part of the political establishment?

I am a lifelong Democrat who has spent my career working inside and outside of the political establishment. As a civil rights attorney and someone who worked in clean energy, you naturally spend a bit of time on the outside since both issues require challenging the status quo. But I also have held senior roles in government and understand how Congress works in order to deliver results. As a senior congressional staffer, I saw the good, bad and the ugly from our government and know ways we can fix it to make Congress accountable to us. Email me at sam@sam4congress.com to discuss ways we can make sure Democrats are united and fighting for our community.

32) Aside from health care, what issue locally do you think you would want to improve by serving in Congress?

We aren't creating enough good paying jobs to help families get ahead. I worked at the Department of Commerce and was a business executive so I have experience creating jobs. As your Congressman, I will focus on supporting our small businesses, making sure we have an economy where workers can get a raise and identify new economic opportunities we can bring home. For example, I held a leadership role at one of the most innovative companies in the world and will be an advocate for bring those jobs local.

Additionally, we need to be investing in education. Education is how people get ahead in our country. This was my experience growing up in our communities. My father didn't go to college and worked at Jack-in-the-Box. My parents sacrificed everything so my siblings and I would receive a good education. We took out loans and worked part-time jobs just to have the chance at a degree. Right now, Republicans are trying to cut those very same loan programs while doing nothing to curb the cost of college and actually cutting the budget for K-12 education. We need champions in Washington who will make sure our schools have the resources they need, fight for more resources for early childhood education and be an advocate for making college affordable.

33) Do you have a campaign team in place?

Yes. I currently have a campaign deputy and will be bringing on a campaign manager. Our team always welcomes volunteers and people interested in working for us. Please sign up at www.sam4congress.com/join.

34) What is your education/background in macro-economics?

I received my education from USC and The George Washington University Law School. I was a business minor in college at USC and took several courses in economics, finance and accounting. Originally, I was going to study

business but switched in the aftermath of September 11th when I decided to get involved in civil rights to make sure every community has a voice.

As discussed previously, I have held executive roles in business and understand firsthand how emerging companies operate, so I can speak to the policies we need to grow our economy.

35) What will be your strategy and messaging to reach beyond the base and engage a wider community with the issues that resonate to all?

My focus will be on the kitchen table issues families here in the 39th District are most concerned about - wages, housing, health care, student debt and having a secure retirement. As Democrats, we need to get back to the basics. Too many families are falling behind and we aren't speaking to their economic challenges. Having worked in senior roles in government and as a business executive, I can speak to my experience in delivering results and connect with voters who may not always agree but want someone to fight for them. It's important to remember that, given the makeup of the district, our job is to fire Ed Royce but convince voters to hire our candidate.

36) How would you have voted on health care?

I would have strongly opposed TrumpCare. Government should not be trying to take health care away from people - it should be fighting to expand access, increase affordability and guarantee quality.

I would have supported the ACA, but pushed for a public option and Medicare for All. But these are not just positions for me, I actually worked in Congress during the ACA vote and the many attempts by Republicans to repeal it. While working in the Senate, I saw the parade of special interests advocating for everyone but working families like those in our community. At the time, the ratio was several hundred lobbyists to every 1 staffer. This meant that our families were not being heard. We need a Congressman who understands our community and will not be pressured by these special interests in order to make sure we have a health care system that works for us. This requires having the experience to get things done.

37) After hearing John McCain speak to the Senate about working bipartisan, how will you work in a bipartisan way to get Washington moving?

I have done this throughout my career. As a young attorney at MALDEF, I led a coalition of civil rights organizations against English Only legislation pushed by a Republican Senator. After months of opposition, I decided to try to identify points of agreement, which led me to work with then-Senator Hillary Clinton on bipartisan legislation with the Republican Senator that would increase funding for English language education and immigrant integration without jeopardizing core civil rights. As a Counsel in the U.S. Senate and Chief of Staff in the U.S. House, I also worked with Republican offices on bipartisan patent legislation and a number of bills focused on job creation. Most recently, while advocating for clean energy, my job was to build bipartisan coalitions in support of solar energy.

While there is a lot of division in politics these days, I do believe there is a desire for new leaders to come in and identify areas of consensus and work together towards improving our country. Throughout my career I have done this and would do so as your Congressman.

38) What are you going to do to support women and programs designed to help women?

I have dedicated my career to fighting injustice. I believe in equal pay for equal work and am a strong supporter of a woman's right to choose. In January, I participated in the Women's March, but this wasn't my first time

advocating for women. I started my career in civil rights and helped advocate for the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which was the first bill signed by President Obama. As a Counsel in the U.S. Senate, I advised my boss during the nomination of Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan to the U.S. Supreme Court.

I was raised by a strong mother and my sister is a former small business owner. My priority will be empowering women in our community. Whether it's defending fundamental rights like choice or being a voice for women's health service providers, like Planned Parenthood, I will be an advocate for women. I will also make sure there are pipelines for upward mobility for women in corporate America and our schools are providing the educational opportunities for women to succeed in all fields.

39) How will you support the winning Democratic candidate after the June, 2018 primary?

I plan to win in June and will work with everyone in the field to make sure we are talking to voters and engaging them in the election. If unsuccessful, I will lend my full support to the Democratic nominee.

40) What is your favorite Beatles song? Why?

"All You Need is Love." We use more of this in the world right now.

41) The Democratic Party establishment has a tendency of accepting corporate and special interest money which in return the candidate votes their way over the people. Will you be transparent and release your donor list?

Yes. All candidates for federal office are required to file campaign disclosures to the Federal Elections Commission (FEC), which shows the names of their political donors.

Ultimately, I believe we need to get laws in place that disclose all political giving. Right now, Super PACs can influence elections without disclosing their donors. We need to change this and require disclosure. More broadly, we need public financing of campaigns to ensure there is no appearance of influence in our elections.

42) Everyone talks about the need for jobs. Do you support a program like the LCC but aimed at infrastructure and clean energy?

I am not familiar with the LCC, but would love to learn more. Please email me at sam@sam4congress.com with any background information.

I do believe that investments in infrastructure and clean energy are essential for building our economy and creating middle class jobs. Already in our district, over 3,000 families have solar panels on their homes and we have local clean energy jobs in solar and electric vehicles. But we can do more to help consumers transition and build the infrastructure needed to deploy clean energy. I worked as an executive in clean energy and will be a leader in Congress promoting this transition.

43) Do you have a plan or path to citizenship for long-term undocumented Dreamers?

Yes. I started my legal career at the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) working on the DREAM Act and have always been an advocate for comprehensive immigration reform. I was working in the Senate in 2010 when the DREAM Act was defeated by Republicans and still remember the disappointment and fear of so many Dreamers. And, while Chief of Staff, for a member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I worked to support DACA and DAPA for Dreamers and their parents.

My plan is to fight on day one for comprehensive immigration reform. Immigrants have built our economy and no youth should live in fear of being deported or having their parent deported. If we can't pass comprehensive immigration reform, then I will fight for a path to citizenship for Dreamers while also making sure we do not leave behind the rest of the undocumented community.

44) How do you propose that we balance political vs. economic relationships between the USA and China, Russia, etc.?

As the world's leading economy, we must use our economic leverage to ensure that Russia and China are adhering to human rights standards and acting responsibly. It's troubling that Ed Royce has shown an unwillingness to hold hearings on Russia's intervention in our election. Even more concerning is how the Trump Administration is allowing others - like China and Russia - dictate our foreign policy. Our Congressman has shown a complete reluctance to hold the Trump Administration accountable for what has functionally been a retreat from global leadership. As Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, we should expect more from Ed Royce.

45) How should the Democratic Party help our candidates?

The two big things are: (1) register voters; and (2) create more opportunities for candidates to speak to people in the community whether through candidate forums or other opportunities for direct engagement.

46) How do you intend to court apathetic Swing voters?

I intend to talk to them and learn about the issues they care most about. People want to know that if they leave Ed Royce, they will have a Congressman who will be able to do the job from day 1. My experience as a business executive in the innovation economy and senior government official, as well my new energy and bold ideas, will enable me to differentiate myself to these voters.

If you have ideas on how we can reach new voters, email me at sam@sam4congress.com.

47) Running as the Anti-Trump candidate doesn't seem to be a good strategy. How progressive are you willing to go to be the Trump opposite?

I am a progressive. I started my career in civil right and have dedicated my life to fighting injustice. It is not a question of being willing or some political strategy - it's who I am. Voters are not concerned with where someone falls on the ideological spectrum - they want to know how you will improve their lives. This is why my focus is on getting back to the basics - wages, health care and housing - to make sure the American Dream is still a possibility for families.

48) In the wake of the appointment of Betsy DeVos, how do you plan to support public education?

My brother is a principal for a Title I public school, which are schools that serve low income families. My mother worked as a teacher's assistant at schools in our community and I spent a summer before law school teaching summer school. I have a deep respect for our teachers and their importance to our community. The consistent attacks on teachers and public schools from Betsy DeVos is troubling. We need to be investing more resources to support our teachers and public schools. We also need to make sure that our schools have the resources they need to train our children for the jobs of the future - coding, clean energy and technology - while also preserving the arts and allowing kids to be creative.

49) What is your view on children's education in the community?

I believe children are the future and we must do all we can to provide a high quality education. This includes investing in universal pre-K, so all children can have a chance to succeed. We must also make sure that every child has the opportunity to go to college. If we do not control the cost of higher education, then we risk either bankrupting an entire generation or leaving working class children out. Education is critical for upward mobility, which is why I began my career in civil rights advocating for educational opportunities for all of our youth.

50) In what ways would you and your team use the momentum Democrats have built up since the 2016 campaign?

Before launching my campaign, I sat down with many of the party leaders involved in building out our 2016 successes and, as a candidate, continue to do so. I plan to work with party leaders to build on last year's success and identify other opportunities to engage more Democratic voters.

51) How important do you think it is to live in the district you are representing?

Yes. I currently live in downtown Fullerton. Send me an email at sam@sam4congress.com to get coffee!

52) Will you vote to impeach Donald Trump?

Donald Trump's rhetoric and actions are troubling for our future and the health of our democracy. We must make sure that his actions receive significant oversight. I am an attorney by training so I would want to first review the evidence against Donald Trump in order to build an effective case. Right now, with Democrats in the minority, we have no ability to investigate the Administration and make the facts available. This is why it is so critical to beat Ed Royce and win the majority in Congress.

53) Would you concede the primary if a better (more likely to beat Ed Royce) candidate were to announce their candidate for CD 39?

I believe I am the best candidate to challenge Ed Royce. I grew up in the community and share our values. My experience in senior government roles and as an executive in clean energy have prepared me to offer an alternative to Ed Royce. Voters will not just be looking to fire Ed Royce, they will want someone to hire. My local roots and experience are what sets me apart from the field and will enable me to defeat Ed Royce.

54) What makes you different from every other Democratic candidate who's run in the past against Ed Royce?

I will be ready on day one and have the unique ability to bring a broad coalition of Democrats, Republicans and Independents to defeat Ed Royce. My experience in the private sector and government - as well as my local roots and shared community values - will give voters a choice and opportunity for change. I also benefit from the activism and leadership from Indivisible CA39 that prior quality candidates did not have.

55) What will you do to keep the administration from giving away our Federal lands?

I will speak out and use every tool available to ensure that the Trump Administration does not sell off our federal lands. Given my experience as a Counsel and Chief of Staff in Congress, I have a better understanding than most of the ways in which efforts by the Trump Administration can be slowed down through congressional oversight and engagement with federal agencies.

56) What is your view on the federal government role in building a modern transportation infrastructure? What should the money be spent on?

The federal government should be a partner with state and local government to build our infrastructure. This is the way it has always been until recent years when the Republican Congress sought to decrease funding for the Highway Trust and has failed to fully fund transportation infrastructure. Our roads and bridges are essential for a successful economy yet Congress continues to ignore our crumbling infrastructure.

There is a lot of work ahead of us if we are going to build an economy for the future. Please send your ideas to sam@sam4congress.com.

57) Is gun control a priority for you? What is your view on gun control?

My priority is keeping families safe. Right now, gun violence continues to threaten so many families in our community and across the country. We need to enforce the laws currently on the books and reauthorize policies like the assault weapons ban and close the gun show loophole. I worked on gun issues in the U.S. Senate and understand the many laws and policies that need to be updated to ensure guns do not get in the wrong hands. Its irresponsible of Ed Royce to continue to vote with the NRA in spite of the very real threat of gun violence in our community.

58) What will you do to reduce air & water pollution?

I first and foremost support funding for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which Ed Royce has supported defunding. Beyond basic funding of the EPA, we also need to transition to 100% clean energy. The technology is here - it is now a question of political will. Solar, battery storage and electric vehicles will directly lead to fewer emissions. Additionally, using technology to clean and recycle our water will be essential as we face the effects of climate change and reduced water supply. The environment is a big priority of mine. You can learn more by visiting www.sam4congress.com/priorities.

59) What is your stand Cadiz H2o theft in the desert?

Access to quality water is going to be one of the major issues in the coming years. As your Congressman, I will prioritize access to water to grow our economy and make sure every community has access to clean water.

60) What is your outreach plan for the Asian & Hispanic communities?

My plan is to talk all voters about the issues they care about. We need to focus on the basic kitchen table issues that families - regardless of race - are concerned with - wages, health care, housing and education. I also plan to work with trusted community leaders to engage these voters. As Latino, I understand how important it is to speak to the community where they are and connect on the ground. My campaign is rooted in this belief that we need to have neighbor to neighbor conversations on how to improve our community.

Please sign up at www.sam4congress.com/join if you are interested in helping me reach out to the Asian and Latino community.

61) How do you plan to give the Asian and Hispanic communities a voice to stay engaged?

My career has been dedicated to fighting injustice. This is why I started my career in civil rights and served as a board member for immigrant rights organizations. I went to law school and chose a career in public service because we need to make sure all people are heard and participating. As a Latino and Arab American, I understand just how important it is to make sure my community is engaged in the policies that impact them and will do

everything I can to run an inclusive congressional office. But I can't do this alone, email me at sam@sam4congress.com with your ideas for engaging all communities in our district.

62) How do you feel about citizens United? What, if anything, do you think we should change about it?

Citizens United was a terrible decision with real consequences to our government. I was a Counsel in the U.S. Senate when the decision came down and worked to pass the DISCLOSE Act, which was intended to provide more transparency in our campaign finance system in response to Citizens United. Unfortunately, Republicans blocked this effort. Ed Royce opposed the DISCLOSE Act and voted against increased transparency. We need to make sure that money is not unregulated in our politics and governing does not come down to just being available to the most rich and powerful. There are too many millionaires and powerful interests shaping our politics at the expense of the voices of working families.

63) Which do you favor and why? A) Buy America, B) Trade Barriers, C) Globalization, D) Multi-lateral Trade Policies

I favor policies that create jobs in our community. This includes promoting exports and enforcing current trade agreements to make sure our small businesses are not at a disadvantage. It also includes making sure we prioritize products made here in America - especially in our district. We need an economy that creates local jobs that will not be outsourced. This is what I did at SolarCity since solar installations, sales and maintenance are local jobs that cannot be outsourced. I will be a champion for making sure our businesses can compete globally and no agreement puts American products or small businesses at a disadvantage.

Please send me your ideas on how we can create jobs. My email is sam@sam4congress.com.

64) What is your opinion regarding no salary level for "exempt status" employees who qualify for overtime pay? Donald Trump wants to reverse Obama's raising the salary definition. Some say it was too much too soon. What is your position on this topic?

Workers should be paid for the work they do. Too many workers are working long hours yet living in poverty. This is not ok and we cannot roll back policies that make it harder for families to survive. My sister is a small business owner and I currently advise a small business, so I understand how hard it is to compete and the many challenges small businesses. I believe there is a lot we can do to help our small businesses grow, but it should not be at the expense of workers.

65) What ideas do you have about job growth, particularly for older workers?

We need to be creating good paying, middle class jobs. The way to do this is to encourage innovation and small businesses - who drive our economy. It also is critical we train workers - old and young - for the jobs that are available. Right now, there are thousands of coding and health care jobs that are unfilled. We need to make sure our workers have the skills to be hired. For older workers, in particular, we need to invest in lifelong learning programs to ensure that their skills remain nimble and businesses can benefit from their experience.

Creating good paying jobs is critical for our community. Please send your ideas to sam@sam4congress.com.

66) What is your response to Trumps call to exclude all transgender service members from service?

I strongly oppose this order. It is discriminatory and shameful. We should be honoring all service members and not only condemn this proposal but will do all I can to overturn the President's decision.

67) Do you see a path for undocumented Dreamers?

Yes. We must stand firm for DACA and, as Californians, protect our youth. We also must do the hard work of passing comprehensive immigration reform and the DREAM Act. This means winning back the House majority so we can set the agenda in Congress. It will also give us control of the budget and oversight authority, which will help curtail extreme policies from the Trump Administration.

68) I live in Yorba Linda where the religious right has a strong hold. How do you break that?

I am going to win this race by talking to voters and finding common ground on what unites us. I am a church-going Christian Democrat and truly believe we can all work together. This involves building trust and listening. During my work in clean energy, I worked with a broad range of groups ranging from the NAACP, the Sierra Club to the Christian Coalition. We all found common ground on clean energy and the need to protect our planet. I believe we have a lot more in common than what divides us.

Please join my campaign at www.sam4congress.com/join if you are interested in helping our campaign talk to voters across the district.

69) How do you appeal to single issue voters like Pro-Life voters?

As mentioned above, I intend to win this race by talking to voters and finding common ground on what unites us. There may be differences of opinion, but we are all in this together and care deeply about our country.

70) Where do you draw the line on working across the aisle on legislation such as healthcare, immigration, and the environment? Can you and will you take a hardline stance against compromise?

I am strong progressive, but I also want to get things done for our community. We currently have a Congressman who is rigid and only votes with his party. I believe we need a leader who can build consensus and work for all of us. This doesn't mean I will bend on my values, but it does mean I will lead and bring people together.

71) Looking out at this crowd tonight in attendance, which demographic do you hope to increase turnout at the next candidate forum? How can you attract more of the demographics that you have identified to turnout?

We need to engage all neighborhoods in our district. This will involve having neighbor-to-neighbor conversations and listening to voters on the issues they care about. We win if all communities in the 39th District come out and vote. If you are interested in building this grassroots movement, email me at sam@sam4congress.com.

72) What do you feel is the greatest threat to America and why? A) North Korea missile attack? B) Global Warming? C) Income Disparity? D) Automation?

The greatest threat to America is we are becoming so divided and no longer seem to have a shared vision of who we want to be. This impacts all of these issues since it's hard to build consensus to tackle the hard problems when we are so divided. I am running because we need the next generation of leaders to step up and unite us. Working together we can keep our country safe, tackle challenges like climate change and build an economy that works for everyone. Please join our campaign at www.sam4congress.com/join if you are interested in bringing our community together to solve some of the biggest challenges facing our country.

73) What are your views on police homicides of minority youth?

It's a tragedy. Across the nation, we are seeing a troubling lack of trust between police and the communities they are sworn to serve. As a civil rights attorney, I understand how critical this trust is to ensure our criminal justice system works for everyone. I will work with local law enforcement, local religious, civil rights and community leaders to make sure we restore this trust. Please email me your ideas at sam@sam4congress.com on how we can restore trust.

74) What can Congress do to help the friends and relatives of minority youth feel safer given the political perils of being considered critical of police practices?

We need to bring people together to find ways to bridge the lack of trust that exists. Part of being an elected official is serving as a community leader – not just voting on bills or budgets. As your Congressman, I will use my convening power to foster dialogue in our community. I am eager to start this dialogue. Please email your thoughts to sam@sam4congress.com.

75) What do you feel is unique about this district?

I grew up here. This community shaped who I am. What is most unique is that we are so rich in diversity and all share the same American story even as we come from different cultures. The immigrant small business owner in Diamond Bar has the same values and aspirations for their children as the 5th generation family in Fullerton. We all want to build a better life for ourselves and the next generation. Today's divided politics do not reflect who we are and I believe this election presents an opportunity to come together.

76) How will you bring climate solutions to District 39, especially considering the fact that California is the 3rd largest oil producer in the USA?

I spent the past two years working for SolarCity and Tesla. My website lists a transition to 100% clean energy as a priority. You can learn more about my priorities here: www.sam4congress.com/priorities. As discussed earlier, the biggest challenge to fighting climate change is not technological - we have the right technologies - its political. This is why we need the next generation of leaders to step up and advocate for fully embracing the clean energy economy. We can do this and create jobs while saving consumers money and protecting our environment. It's a leadership question - which is why I am running for Congress.