

IADC SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2024 6:00 – 7:45 PM (PST) CADEM EBOARD – SAN DIEGO

AGENDA

Agenda Section	Topic	Speaker
IADC	Call to Order/ Agenda	Noojan Nooraie
	Welcome / Who is IADC Outreach Update	Alex Mohajer
	Endorsement Update	Keristofer Seryani
IADC Focus	Legislative Update	Sudi Farokhnia
	MENA Inclusion	Amin Nash
	Election Talking Points	Sudi Farokhnia
What is at stake in this election	Project 2025	Alex Mohajer
	Project 2025 on Education & LGBTQ	Ahmenise Sanati
	Fascism in our own backyard	Council Member Natalie Moser
	Criminal Justice	Shervin Aazami
	Environmental Protection	Sara Aminzadeh
Organize and Mobilize	How to reach and mobilize IA community Fariba Hezar	
Spotlight Iranian American Candidates & DNC Delegates		



IADC'S REPORT

- * WHO WE ARE
- * AAPI & MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS
- * WHAT IS NEW
- * OUTREACH UPDATE
- * ENDORSEMENT UPDATE

WHO WE ARE

- ❖Iranian American Democrats of California is an (527) organization dedicated to engaging, educating and empowering our community. We endorse legislation and Iranian American Democrats and allies running for office that reflect our values.
- **❖**We believe in secular democracy as a form of government and are committed to any movement that defends civil liberties and upholds human rights doctrines. As an immigrant community which has lived the experience of war, we persistently advocate for diplomacy and peace.
- ❖We envision when Iranian Americans and other underrepresented communities are included, valued, represented, and celebrated for their unique contributions, everyone wins.



HONORING AAPI MONTH & MENTAL HEALTH AWARNESS MONTH

This May, the Iranian American Democrats of California are honored to celebrate AAPI Heritage Month, which recognizes the immense contributions our Asian American, Pacific Islander, and Native Hawaiian communities have made to the rich social and political tapestry of the United States. As Iranian Americans, we share many rich, intersectional bonds with other immigrant communities who come to the US in pursuit of a better and more prosperous life. Iran is also in Asia continent. As we fight for democracy here at home, let us also commit to building coalitions with and advancing our common cause with our vibrant AANHPI communities!

CELEBRATE
YOUR ROOTS,
HONOR YOUR
HERITAGE

HAPPY ASIAN AMERICAN +
PACIFIC ISLANDER
HERITAGE MONTH!

May is also Mental Health Awareness month! Mental health is still a taboo and stigmatized subject both socially and politically. Post-pandemic, mental health crisis is on the rise, with increased rates of depression, anxiety, and mental health disorders across the state and especially amongst our children. As Iranians who have a unique history grappling with trauma, IADC is committed to fighting for increased access, resources, and de-stigmatization of mental health care policy here in California and nationwide. Mental health is health care, and healthcare is a human right!!



HONORING INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LIVING TOGETHER IN PEACE & AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA...

May16th is the International Day of Living Together in Peace, a holiday observed by the United Nations with the goal of upholding the desire to live and act together, united in differences and diversity, in order to build a sustainable world of peace. As wars rage across the Middle East, and conflicts displace and kill innocent civilians, the Iranian American Democrats of California advocate for peace across the world. We call for a ceasefire in Gaza and for an end to the humanitarian crisis unfolding in Palestine. We also acknowledge that any attempt to infringe on women and LGBTQ+ people is considered waging a war, whether it is in Iran, in Afghanistan or in any of the war torn countries. Let us give peace a chance.



The International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT), commemorated on 17 May, marks a celebration of sexual and gender diversity. This year's 20th anniversary is an opportunity to welcome progress and draw attention to violence and discrimination experienced by people based on sexual orientation and gender identity. IADC stands firmly behind the LBTQIA+ community and against all forms of hate. We are grateful that President Biden has taken solid actions to support the community such as ensuring transgender Americans can access government support and services, and full equity for LGBTQI+ Americans by reversing the discriminatory ban on transgender service members. He also Signed Respect for Marriage Act, protecting millions of same-sex and interracial couples.



WHAT IS NEW

April 22, 2024

Statement

We, the Iranian American Democrats of California, continue to urge de-escalation between Iran and Israel following a series of retaliatory attacks by the two nations. We condemn any attacks of sovereign soil and are alarmed at the barrage of missiles and subsequent attack by Israel.

It is as important as ever to distinguish between people and their government. The people of Iran and the people of Israel are not enemies. People want peace, and the people of Iran have already experienced the devastating impact of war, they do not wish to repeat that experience.

IADC reiterates its vision of a secular democratic Iran without the Islamic Republic. We are concerned about the safety of innocent lives throughout the region and urge the protection of civilians caught in the crossfire of hostilities in Israel and Iran. We also condemn the repressive actions and heightened brutality by the Islamic Republic regime against women and girls in Iran.

War will only benefit IRI's Supreme Leader, Khamenei, and his regime. We urge "all parties" to work together and prevent further escalation in the Middle East. The devastating impact of wars around the world is seen and felt no matter where you live, and the international community must come together and, in the

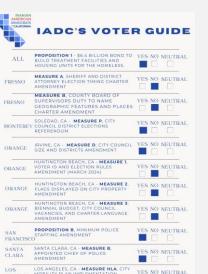
strongest terms, advocate for peace.



OUTREACH UPDATE



March 2nd – Iranian American Women's Foundation



PRIMARY ELECTION - MARCH 5TH, 2024



March 9th – The Great American Write-in (Orange County)

BE AN ALLY

March 24th Nowruz Gathering in Irvine by IAC Group



Subscribe to our newsletter and stay informed https://iademca.org/subscribe/

OUTREACH UPDATE

March 20th - IADC Nowruz Event in Sacramento













March 21st - Nowruz at California Senate



Nowruz Celebration

IRANIAN AMERICAN
DEMOCRATS OF CALIFORNI
(IADC) IN COLLABORATION
WITH STATE SENATOR AISH
WAHAB INVITES YOU TO JOI!
A NOWRUZ GATHERING AS W
WELCOME SPRING

21 MARCH, 2024 10:00 - 11:30 am Room 130

@ CA State Capitol Building 10th and L Streets







OUTREACH UPDATE

March 23rd – Nowruz Tour at the White House











COMING UP...

July 27 - The Iranian American
Democrats of California (IADC) in
collaboration with the Asian Democrats of
Los Angeles County (ADLAC), Pilipino
American Los Angeles Democrats
(PALAD), and the Southern California
Armenian Democrats (SCAD) will be cohosting the annual BBQ Battle event at
Glendale Verdugo Park.

The event will be free to participants and will include elected officials and candidates,

More information will be shared on our social media and website.... Stay tuned.





ENDORSEMENT UPDATE



Result of Primary Election for IADC's 2024 Endorsed Candidates



or advanced to general election in November



AD 17



AD 18



Christy Holstege AD 47



AD 55







Dove CD 37



Damikol CD 40





















Glendale SB- A





Glendale SB- E Johnson - Santa Cruz

TIMELINE FOR THE NOVEMBER 2024 GENERAL ELECTION

Application Acceptance Period: June 15 to July 15, 2024

Initial review meeting: Monday July 29th, Interview period: July 22 – August 5, 2024

Announcement: August 15, 2024

Visit <u>IranianDems.Org</u> for link to the application





ISSUES THAT IMPACT OUR COMMUNITY

Domestic Policy

Source: 2023 Poll of Iranian Americans in CA

- Economy & Jobs: Labor laws, Living Wage, Equal Pay
- Healthcare, Mental Health support, Prescription
- Gun Control & Safety
- Climate Change & Environment: Clean Air, Clean Water, Food security
- Taxes: Employer Taxes, Tax the Super Rich
- Housing: Renters Protection, Unhoused population
- Civil Rights and Discrimination
- **to Education:** Pre-K, 12K, Higher Education, Special Education
- Women's Rights: Reproductive Rights, Equal Rights Amendment, CEDAW
- Immigration Reform & Refugee Programs
- **to Equal Rights: LGBTQ, Religious Minority groups**

Foreign Policy

- **❖** Promote Regime Change in Iran & Human Rights & Democracy for Iran
- Not Releasing Funds to the Islamic regime
- **Avoid & Prevent any Military Acton on Iran & End Financing Wars**

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

NATIONAL

Immigration Bills:

- H.R.155 Temporary Family Visitation Act (TFVA) Introduced on Aug. 2023 by Representatives Scott Peters (D-CA), Stephanie Bice (R-OK), Jim Himes (D-CT), and Maria Salazar (R-FL), and Senators Rand Paul (R-KY) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) in the Senate. The Bill is referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary. It has 18 co-sponsors (14D & 4R), from California it has only 3 Democrats co-sponsors so far: Representatives Ro Khanna, Eric Swalwell, Jimmy Panett
 - We need your help to get all 40 democrats from CA to support TFVA, such as Rep. Adam Schiff, Rep. Sara Jacob, Rep, Zoe Lofgren,... those on <u>Judiciary</u>, <u>Homeland Security</u>, <u>Foreign Affairs Committees</u>
- H.R. 3599 DIGNIDAD (Dignity Act) introduced on May 2023 by Rep. Maria Salazar (R-FL-27), includes TFVA.
 Bill is referred to the Subcommittee on Border Security and Enforcement. It has 36 cosponsors (29D, 7R), so far
 from CA there are only 2 co-sponsors: Rep. John Duarte R-CA-13, Rep. Mike Levin D-CA-49
- H.R.6865 Allyship Act- Rep. Barbara Lee, sponsored by IADC We need your help as the bill would need to be re-introduced.
 - OTF approved internet access for up 46 million users per day for 7 countries
- FYI: 6 punitive bills were signed by President Biden as part of the national security supplemental package
 - Mahsa Amini Human Rights and Security Accountability Act (MAHSA)
 - Stop Harboring Iranian Petroleum Act (SHIP)
 - Holding Iranian Leaders Accountable Act
- Iran China Energy Sanction Act
- Fight and Combat Iranian Missile Exports
- No technology for Terror
- OMB Directive No. 15 Race/Ethnicity Standard includes a new category: "Middle Eastern or North African"
 (MENA) starting with 2030 census and adopted for it will be all federal forms and questionnaires
 - over 20,000 comments, 94 listening sessions, and 3 virtual town halls

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

CALIFORNIA

- Two Resolutions unanimously passed:
 - SCR126 Nowruz Resolution Sen. Aisha Wahab & HR76 Nowruz Resolution Assem. Jesse Gabriel
- AB2200 California Guaranteed Health Care for All Act (CalCare) Assem. Ash Kalra sponsored by the California Nurses Association (CNA)

California leads the nation in language diversity, with 43.9% of households speaking a language other than English at home, and nearly 3 million eligible voters who identify as being limited English proficient on the census. Despite the state's flourishing cultural landscape, outdated and inadequate language laws hinder far too many Californians from fully participating in their democracy or use many of the available services.

- Two bills introduced by Sen. Dave Min:
 - SB1174 Protect against Voter ID Requirements in Local Elections (Voter ID Ban)
 - SB1078 New Office Of Language Access for Healthcare Related Programs
- AB 884 Elections: language accessibility Assem. Evan Low & Senate Aisha Wahab passed the house Appropriation Committee, referred to Senate Appropriation committee
- AB 2763 MENA INCLUSION Assem. Bill Essayli & Assem. Laura Friedman is co-author
 AB-2763, known as the MENA Inclusion Act, is a statistical bill requiring all California state departments, commissions, and agencies that collect demographic or ancestry data to include a "Middle Eastern or North African" category.

Note: September is the end of the legislative calendar

MENA Inclusion in CA: Status Updates

Amin Nash, Arab American Civic Council IADC, 5/17/2024



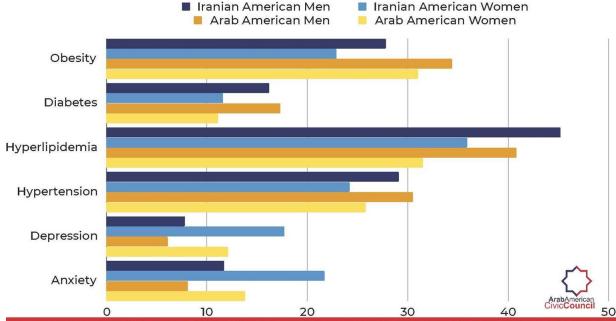


MENA Inclusion: Why it Matters

- Brings recognition to the Middle Eastern or North African (MENA) population
- Allows the MENA community to have access to usable data and resources, such as healthcare and civil rights data.
- California has the largest and most diverse MENA population, also the most impactful across the nation.
- Expands the Federal definition

A 2021 ANALYSIS OF KAISER PERMANENTE'S HEALTH DATA IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA LOCATED 18,072 ARAB AMERICANS AND 5,777 IRANIAN AMERICANS, FINDING:

- **Arab American men and women** had a higher prevalence of <u>obesity</u> and diabetes than Iranian Americans.
- Iranian Americans had a higher prevalence of <u>hyperlipidemia</u> than Arab Americans.
- Both Arab and Iranian American men had a higher prevalence of <u>hypertension</u> and <u>diabetes</u> than Arab or Iranian American women. Iranian American women had a lower prevalence of <u>hypertension</u> than Arab American women.
- Iranian Americans were more likely to have clinically diagnosed anxiety than Arab Americans. Diagnosed depression was significantly high in both ethnic groups for women and men in the 65-84 age group. Older Iranian American women had the highest burden of mental health issues.



BUELEZAM, N.N., EL-SAYED, A., GALEA, S. ET AL. UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENCES WITHIN ETHNIC GROUP DESIGNATION: COMPARING RISK ACTORS AND HEALTH INDICATORS BETWEEN IRANIAN AND ARAB AMERICANS IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA. BMC PUBLIC HEALTH 21, 1074 (2021).



Recent Advances in MENA Inclusion

- March 29, 2024: The Office of Management and Budget (OMB), which standardizes ethnic demographic categories for the Federal Government, approves of a distinct MENA ethnic category in the 2030 Census.
- May 16, 2024: AB 2763, the MENA Inclusion Act, unanimously moves through two Policy Committees but Held in Appropriations.
- May 2024: San Diego County Supervisor Joel Anderson submits a Policy Recommendation to include a MENA Category in SD County. It unanimously passed.



Opportunities for MENA Inclusion in CA

- Work with local community leaders and partners to discuss the integration of MENA data and programming within the community.
 - a. Example 1: IADC and partner organizations can lead the way to include Persian voting materials in OC and SD.
 - b. Example 2: Iranian and Persian-speaking researchers and doctors can (and should) begin drafting proposals to collect health data from the community, with the anticipation of state funds.
- Consider drafting policies or bills that initiate pilot programs or studies for the CA MENA population.
- 3. Share information about MENA Inclusion in CA. Urge Governor Newsom to support MENA Inclusion.
- 4. In the future, encourage the disruption of the term "Middle Eastern."



How You Can Help

- 1. Consider submitting policy recommendations to bring integrate your MENA community with the county, such as what's being done in San Diego.
- 2. Join the #CountMENAInCA Listserv, where we regularly share updates about state-level MENA initiatives (email me for information)
- 3. Now that we have a sample MENA legislation, contact legislators you have good relations with and try to work on other state-level policies.

Need more information?

Email amin@aaciviccouncil.org

Visit https://www.countmenainca.org/

BIDEN-HARRIS DELIVER!

JOBS: More People Are Working Than at Any Point in American History

Signed American Rescue Plan which led to fastest job recovery in history

Made more than 4 million federal workers eligible for overtime pay

Banned noncompete agreements for workers

Two strongest years of job growth in history

Nearly 11 million jobs created since 2021

750,000 new manufacturing jobs, Created more manufacturing jobs in 2022 than in any single year in nearly 30 years

3.5% unemployment rate — the lowest in 50 years & 17 states have unemployment below 3%

Near a record low unemployment rate for Hispanics

Near a record low unemployment rate for African-Americans

Record low unemployment rate for people with disabilities

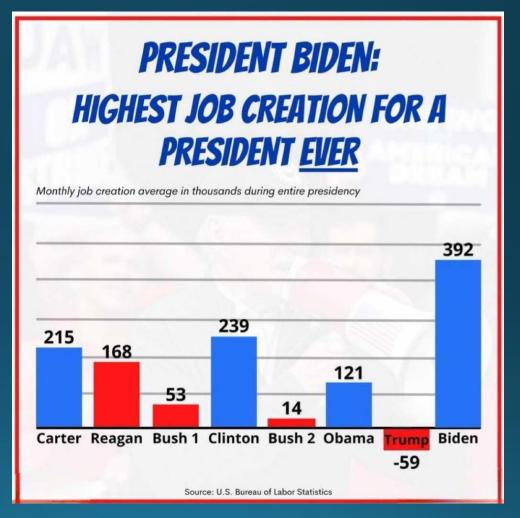
Thanks to Investing in America Agenda, Microsoft data center and 2,000 new jobs are coming to Racine, Wisconsin

The CHIPS and Science Act will boost American semiconductor research, development, and production, ensuring U.S. leadership in the technology that forms the foundation of everything from automobiles to household appliances to defense systems. It also addressed the supply-chain issues that surfaced during COVID.

\$15 minimum wage for Federal workers and contractors



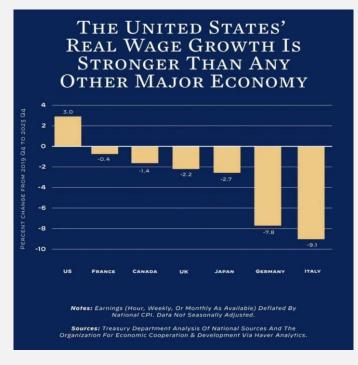
EDUCATE, ENGAGE, EMPOWER



IranianDems.org

Inflation Rate: 41% of Americans have cited inflation and high cost of living as the most important financial problem facing their family today — a massive spike from just 8% in June 2017

Inflation Rate Feb 2024		Inflation Rate	Inflation Rate Feb 2021	
Russia	7.7%	Russia	5.7%	
Brazil	4.5%	Brazil	5.2%	
United Kingdom	3.4%	United States	1.7%	
United States	3.2%	Germany	1.3%	
Japan	2.8%	Euro Zone	0.9%	
Euro Zone	2.6%	Italy	0.6%	
Germany	2.5%	United Kingdom	0.4%	
Italy	0.8%	China	-0.2%	
China	0.7%	Japan	-0.5%	



BIDEN-HARRIS DELIVER!

LOWERING HOUSEHOLD COST: Reduce Families' Everyday Expenses Through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

Over 16 million households receiving lower cost or free highspeed internet through the Affordable Connectivity Program with commitment from 20 providers

Taken over 100 actions to lower household energy costs by \$100 per year

Helped bring gas prices down more than \$1.60 from their summer 2022 peak

Investing in America Agenda lowers water bills

Lowered bank fees, only \$8 for overdraft fees (\$8 late fee for credit cards has been halted by a judge in Texas)

Millions of Americans are saving \$800 per year on health insurance coverage

\$500 in annual savings for Americans through clean energy tax credit programs

\$2000 annual cap on out-of-pocket prescription drug costs for seniors

Require refunds for consumers for flight delays or cancellations

\$0 tax increase for families earning less than \$400K per year

Fully funded WIC to feed women and children

\$1 billion increase in funding for child care and pre-k, ensuring families making up to \$200K don't pay more than \$10 a day for childcare



BIDEN-HARRIS DELIVER!

STUDENTS: Debt Forgiveness Helps Narrow Wealth Gap

40 million borrowers stand to benefit from student debt relief

Biden-Harris Administration has cancelled nearly \$160 billion in student loan, no individual or household in the top 5% of income will benefit

20 Million borrowers have their loans fully canceled

Increased the maximum value of Pell Grants by \$900

Fixed the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program

EDUCATION: Delivering for Educators

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 includes just over \$170.3 billion for schools, making this the federal government's largest-ever single education investment

Historic funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), delivered a historic \$5.8 billion cumulative investment in and support for HBCUs, including: American Rescue Plan. President Biden's American Rescue Plan and other pandemic relief has provided nearly \$3.7 billion in relief funding to HBCUs this year alone

Supported the biggest three-year gain in education jobs since the mid-1970s and working to address the educator shortage

Secured \$1 billion to hire school mental health professionals, provide support for children and families struggling with gun violence trauma, and more

Canceling educator's student loan debt

Enabling teachers to collectively bargain for higher pay and better working conditions

Fighting to cut educators' taxes

Fighting book bans



BIDEN-HARRIS

DELIVER!

HEALTH: More People Have Health Insurance and Lower Medical Cost

Historically low Uninsured Rate of 8%

4 out of 5 people can find coverage on Healthcare.gov for \$10 a month or less

Millions of Americans are saving \$800 per year on health insurance coverage

Over 16M people Enrolled in ACA, highest number ever

Fully vaccinated 79% of American adults against COVID-19

Mailed over 740 million free COVID-19 tests directly to tens of millions of Americans

Led the world in a historic release of strategic reserves

Reignited the Cancer Moonshot with the goal of cutting the cancer death rate by at least half over the next 25 years

Lowered the cost of hearing aids by making them available over the

Advanced cutting-edge research on cancer and other diseases through the ARPA-H initiative

Hosted the first White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health in over 50 years and released a National Strategy to end hunger and reduce diet-related diseases and disparities by 2030

Through PACT Act for Veterans, VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances is expanded

Lowered seniors' health care expenses, including by capping out of pocket expenses on prescription drugs for seniors at \$2,000 per year, ensuring that people enrolled in Medicare will not pay more than \$35 for a month's supply of insulin, and recipients will receive free vaccines

BIDEN-HARRIS DELIVER!

VOTING RIGHTS: Making Voting Accessible for All Americans

Signed the Electoral Count Act, which takes long overdue steps to protect the integrity of our elections

<u>Department of Education</u>: Access to voter registration services made easy for postsecondary students by linking vote.gov and StudentAid.gov

The <u>Department of Agriculture (USDA)</u> enhanced efforts to promote access to voting by encouraging all USDA agency field offices to make nonpartisan information about voter registration available in customer service locations

The <u>Indian Health Service (IHS)</u> promotes access to voting in Indian Country by piloting high-quality voter registration services to patients across five IHS facilities

Vote,gov is now accessible in twelve languages, with more translations coming online soon, and GSA will continue working to enhance the website to make it easier for Americans to register to vote and obtain nonpartisan information about voting.

Supporting the third-party Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) partners in offering voter registration services to individuals who seek tax assistance, <u>Treasury</u> is now providing information about voter registration in the instructions for IRS Form 1040 and in direct mail pieces delivered to approximately 900,000 Americans who receive Social Security Benefits, Railroad Pension benefits, and federal retirement benefits

<u>General Services Administration</u>: Voter registration information and additional resources for newly naturalized Americans are available on the USCIS website for New U.S. Citizens

In 2023, the <u>Department of the Interior</u> became the first agency to be designated as voter registration agency when two Bureau of Indian Education-operated postsecondary institutions—Haskell Indian Nations University in Kansas and the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute in New Mexico—formed partnerships with state election authorities to provide the opportunity to register to vote.

The <u>Department of Justice</u> has developed a program to educate individuals about their voting rights, specific to each state and territory. The Department is also promoting access to voting for those who remain eligible to vote while in federal custody, including by putting in place procedures to facilitate voter registration and voting.

<u>Department of Defense</u>: The Federal Voting Assistance Program, which works to ensure Service members and overseas citizens have access to voting, has made the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) for voter registration or ballot request and the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB) available in seven languages.

<u>Department of State</u>: <u>Travel.state.gov</u> now reflects up-to-date information absentee voting and registration for U.S. citizens abroad





BIDEN-HARRIS DELIVER!

WOMEN: Supporting Women &
Protecting Reproductive Rights by
Executive Orders

Signed legislation to reauthorize and strengthen the Violence Against Women Act

Signed legislation that provides new protections for pregnant and postpartum workers

Supports the right to travel across state lines for medical care

Protects access to reproductive healthcare, including abortion, during medical emergencies

Protects patient privacy & sensitive health Information

Established the White House Gender Policy Council

Established the first-ever White House Initiative on Women's Health Research

Invested \$12 billion into women's health research

First women vice president and record number of cabinet secretaries

Nominated the most diverse set of judges to the federal bench and appointed first African American women to Supreme court, Honorable Ketanji Brown Jackson

Invested in women entrepreneurs and small business owners

Lowest unemployment rate among women in 70 years



BIDEN-HARRIS DELIVER!

MINORITIES: Historic Steps to Advance Full Equality for LGBTQIA & Other Minorities

Signed Respect for Marriage Act, protecting millions of same-sex and interracial couples

Full equity for LGBTQI+ Americans by reversing the discriminatory ban on transgender service members

Strengthening non-discrimination protections in health care, housing, education, and employment

Ensured transgender Americans can access government support and services

Invested historic funding for Tribal governments and Native communities

Committed to preserving DACA and expanding opportunities for Dreamers

Expanded quality affordable care access to DACA recipients, with 100 thousands young people are now eligible for ACA

Established "Welcome Corps" a refugee sponsorship initiative under the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP). Through the Welcome Corps, Americans, in groups of at least 5 adults, support newly arrived refugees by securing and preparing initial housing, greeting them at the airport, enrolling children in school, helping adults find employment and meet other needs to ensure they are prepared for life in the United States.



BIDEN-HARRIS DELIVER!

Infrastructure: Rebuilding and Investing in Air, Water, Roads, Internet

Infrastructure investments in all 50 states, D.C., territories, and throughout Tribal nations

Creates good paying jobs in every part of the country

Builds first ever national network of EV charging stations

Largest investment in rebuilding our roads and bridges since the Interstate Highway System - including \$40 billion for bridges alone

Largest investment in public transit in American History - \$108 billion for public transportation

Largest investment in tackling legacy pollution - overall \$660 million in formula grant funding being released on a rolling basis. \$54.2 million from Investing in America agenda for North Dakota and West Virginia to plug approx. 200 orphaned oil and gas wells

\$20 billion in water infrastructure investments from the American Rescue Plan

\$13 billion to improve wastewater, sanitation, and stormwater infrastructure

Ensures access to clean drinking water in every community, enacted first-ever national drinking water limits on PFAS chemicals

Investing \$3 billion in replacing toxic lead pipes in every state

Advancing President's Lead Pipe and Paint Action Plan, nearly \$90 million funding available through the Department of Housing to reduce health hazards in public housing

\$65 billion to ensure every American has access to affordable, reliable high-speed internet through a historic investment in broadband infrastructure deployment.

Building a more resilient power grid and scales new clean energy technologies, upgrading 100,000 miles of power line



BIDEN-HARRIS DELIVER!

ECONOMY: Focus on Making Tax Code Fairer and Reduce deficit

Awarded the most ever federal contracting dollars to small businesses and disadvantaged small businesses

15% minimum tax on billion dollars corporations

1% surcharge on corporate stick buybacks

Lowered the deficit with the single largest annual reduction in American history

Though the Inflation Reeducation Act (IRA) of 2022, providing \$80 billion in funding for IRS in order to reduce tax gap - collecting over \$600 billion in back taxes from millionaires and tax dodgers - which will reduce deficit by nearly one-quarter. It also creates 30,000 new jobs in order to be fully staffed

SAFETY: Protecting the Safety of All Americans

Signed Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, the most significant gun violence prevention legislation in nearly 30 years

The legislation is already saving lives by keeping guns out of the hands of individuals under 21 who are prohibited from purchasing firearms, empowering the Justice Department with new authorities to prosecute firearms traffickers, improving access to mental health services in our schools to help young people deal with the trauma and grief resulting from gun violence, and investing in community violence interventions.

Fighting to ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazines and require universal background checks

Signed an Executive Order on Improving Public Safety and Criminal Justice for Native Americans and Addressing the Crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People

Established first-ever White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention



BIDEN-HARRIS

DELIVER!

FOREIGN POLICY: Biden's Wins Have Been Overshadowed by Images Resulting from Funding of Wars, Loss of Lives and Chaotic Withdrawal from Afghanistan

Strengthened and Expanded the NATO alliances (Sweden & Finland)

Biden has stood firmly against the world's two leading autocrats, Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Successfully created a robust trans-Atlantic and trans-Pacific coalition to support Ukraine and sanction Russia

Indo-Pacific has been a priority, the State Department and Pentagon have spent considerable time bringing East Asian allies onside and even brokered an entente of sorts between Japan and South Korea

Delivering on what it calls its "invest, align, and compete" strategy toward China, including by channeling billions of dollars into U.S. semiconductor manufacturing and science research, retaining most of former U.S. President Donald Trump's restrictions on China, and going a significant step further by restricting semiconductor exports in an attempt to thwart China's development of high technology

Raised tariffs on clean-energy goods from China in May 2024, with the levy on Chinese electric vehicles set to roughly quadruple

Strategic ambiguity has been replaced by strategic clarity, repeatedly committing the U.S. to helping Taiwan if China were to invade

Two positive decisions he made early in his term: sending a comprehensive immigration reform bill to the U.S. Congress (it went nowhere, but at least he made the effort) and eliminating the Trump administration's most odious policies, including family separation and the requirement for asylum-seekers to remain in Mexico while their cases are reviewed.





BIDEN-HARRIS

DELIVER!

FOREIGN POLICY: Biden's Wins Have Been Overshadowed by Images Resulting from Funding of Wars, Loss of Lives and Chaotic Withdrawal from Afghanistan

5 American detainees were allowed to leave Iran in exchange for Tehran gaining access to \$6 billion in oil revenue that South Korea owed Iran, but funds are kept in the central bank of Qatar and were to be used for humanitarian purposes only. five Iranians who had either been charged or convicted in the U.S. received clemency.

The U.S. and Qatar agreed to freeze \$6 billion in Iranian assets after October 7th attack in Israel.

Through 88 sanction announcements since January 2021, the Biden Administration has imposed sanction on many Iranian individuals, businesses and trading partners

Signed 6 punitive laws against Iran •as part of the national security supplemental package: MAHSA Act, SHIP Act, Holding Iranian leaders Accountable Act, Iran china Energy Sanction Act, Fight and Combat Iranian Missile Exports, No Technology for Terror Act

Maintained IRGC on the List of Terrorists Organizations

Ended the 20-year war in Afghanistan based on the agreement that Trump had signed with Taliban; brought many allies and their families to safety

Eliminated the Al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri and the brokered a long-awaited Israel-Lebanon maritime border deal.

Two of two...





WHAT IS AT STAKE IN THIS ELECTION

- * PROJECT 2025
- * EDUCATION & LGBTQ RIGHTS
- * FASCISM IN OUR OWN BACKYARD
- * CRIMINAL JUSTICE
- * ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

WHAT IS PROJECT 2025?

- □ Project 2025 is the far-right blueprint for the next conservative administration to gut the federal government by firing federal workers and installing loyalists, allowing a small faction of far-right despots to take over.
- ☐ There are over 80 organizations funding and supporting this plan, but the main organizers are The Heritage Foundation
- According to Project 2025, "It is not enough for conservatives to win elections. If we are going to rescue the country from the grip of the radical left, we need both a governing agenda and the right people in place, ready to carry this agenda out on day one of the next conservative administration...The project will build on **four pillars** that will, collectively, pave the way for an effective conservative administration."
 - Pillar I outlines massive changes to the federal government, reducing transparency, and gutting civil liberties.
 - Pillar II is a personnel database that allows candidates to build their own professional profiles and P2025 coalition members to review and voice their recommendations. These recommendations will then be collated and shared with the President-elect's team, fast tracking potential appointments.
 - Pillar III is the Presidential Administration Academy, an educational system taught by the P2025 coalition. Trainings
 would abandon current government responsibilities and replace them with conservative tenets, supplanting decades
 of institutional stability.
 - Pillar IV the Playbook—reorganizes government agencies and lays out the implementation plan as soon as the
 next conservative president is sworn in.
- ☐ In the manifesto, they cite the Reagan administration took 60% of their policy recommendations.
- The wheels are already in motion as evidenced in the **court cases stacked for Supreme Court** to review and recent year rulings such on cases that bash government employees and aims to dismantle the Administrative State. For example: case regarding the Maine law that bars public funding for private sectarian schools. Conservative Justices expressed disgust that state employees can decide which schools were too religious for taxpayer dollars. Also, recently granting North Carolina Republican legislators the right to defend the state's voter ID law.

PROJECT 2025

Project 2025

Trump's Roadmap to ...

Pillar I - The manifesto lays out the thought processes for policy changes, and makes general recommendations for the next administration. Some of the most concerning things outlined are:

- Directs EPA to stop efforts on fighting climate change
- Reinstates Schedule F
- Removes regulatory agency independence
- Eliminates nearly all access to abortion and birth control



Pillar II - The Project 2025 architects are compiling a database of candidates to place pre-screened loyalists in positions throughout the administration on day one.

In fact, Axios reported in November of 2023 that the Presidential Personnel Database already has over 4,000 entries. This will allow the next administration to enact policy changes without pushback from other appointees or staff.

Project 2025

Trump's Roadmap to ...

Pillar III is the Presidential
Administration Academy, an
online educational system taught
by experts from the coalition.
For the newcomer, this will
explain how the government
functions and how to function in
government.

For the experienced, they plan to host in-person seminars with advanced training and set the bar for what is expected of senior leadership.

This is special training they would put appointees through. While some training is normal for new positions, these trainings are taught by various instructors through The Heritage Foundation, one of the spearhead organizations for this plan.



Pillar IV - the Playbook— new agency teams will be formed and drafting transition plans to move out upon the President's utterance of 'so help me God.'

This is an outline of actions the executive branch should take in the first 180 days of the next administration to enact all of the policy recommendations they made in the manifesto, AKA Pillar 1.

The document says: "The time is short, ... The playbook of actions to be taken in the first 180 days of the new Administration will bring quick relief to Americans suffering from the Left's devastating policies.

Project 2025

PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION PROJECT

Project 2025

Trump's Roadmap to ...



The short list of what all of this mean to all of us who live in the US:

- Abortion and euthanasia are not healthcare:
 National abortion ban
- Restricted IVF access
- Mass deportation
- Family separation
- Muslim ban
- · Guns in classrooms
- Tax cuts for the ultra-wealthy
- Dismantle the wall of separation between church and state
- Removing rulemaking power from agencies (Environment Protection Agency, Dept. of Justice, State Dept., Education Dept., Dept. of Homeland Security, FBI, etc.)
- Deploy the military for domestic law enforcement
- Promote the unitary executive theory (president possesses all of the executive power, limit Congress)
- Order the Justice Department to prosecute political opponents and Trump adversaries
- Mass layoffs Replace tenured civil servants with MAGA loyalists who undergo the coalition's training
- Promote "Stable and Flourishing Married Families" means guarantee men have jobs & LGBTQ households are not considered a family and shall not be able to adopt or use surrogacy



Project 2025

A **CLOSER** LOOK AT WHAT TRUMP'S PLAN FOR EDUCATION, REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE, AND LGBTQ+ RIGHTS

Ahmanise Sanati

Education

"Federal education policy should be limited and, ultimately, the federal Department of Education should be eliminated."

"The next Administration will need a plan to redistribute the various congressionally approved federal education programs across the government, eliminate those that are ineffective or duplicative, and then eliminate the unproductive red tape and rules by entrusting states and districts with flexible, formula-driven block grants."

Advancing education freedom

School Vouchers

Arizona is used as example.
This further disenfranchises our most vulnerable students, this is also Arizona overspent billions- it's defunding public schools; their plan

Providing education choice for "federal" children

Future of education the idea of regulations and red tape- removed, will do better.

Restoring state and local control over education funding

*as is, funding is mostly state and local control, with few exceptions

Example: Desantis in Florida

Safeguarding civil rights

Their interpretation of Civil Rights, including Rejecting Gender Ideology and CRT

Reproductive Justice (and LGBTQ+ rights)

ENDING ACCESS TO IVF ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Expanding Alabama's IVF Ruling Nationwide

What happened in Alabama?

Alabama Supreme Court rules that frozen embryos are children.



"Because the male–female dyad is essential to human nature and because every child has a right to a mother and father, three-parent embryo creation and human cloning research should be banned."

"From the moment of conception, every human being possesses inherent dignity and worth, and our humanity does not depend on our age, stage of development, race, or abilities. The Secretary must ensure that all HHS programs and activities are rooted in a deep respect for innocent human life from day one until natural death: Abortion and euthanasia are not health care."

"In the context of current and emerging reproductive technologies, HHS policies should never place the desires of adults over the right of children to be raised by the biological fathers and mothers who conceive them."

What does this mean?

Project 2025 makes multiple references to life beginning at conception. This idea is the foundation for many of their policies regarding abortion, IVF, and genetic research.

To be clear, they will take Alabama's ruling national, stifling the chance for the thousands of people across the county who need IVF to have children. Why would they target IVF? IVF allows LGBTQIA+ couples to have children, it allows women without partners to have children.

Project 2025- and those who have pledged to enact it- will stop at nothing to completely upend bodily autonomy, fertility and family planning as we know it.

LGBTQ+ Rights

Forward: The Conservative Promise

1. RESTORE THE FAMILY AS THE CENTERPIECE OF AMERICAN LIFE AND PROTECT OUR CHILDREN

"...remove marriage penalties and add work requirements to social programs, use the tax code to encourage family cohesion, remove sexual orientation and gender identity, DEI, gender, gender equality ... abortion, reproductive health, reproductive rights ... out of every federal rule ... regulation ... and piece of legislation that exists."

WHAT DOES "RESTORE THE FAMILY" MEAN IN PRACTICE?

*Marginalized communities will be penalized for leaving abusive relationships, women will die of preventable pregnancy complications, government agencies and boards will continue to be dominated by white men.

- *Who decides? Depending on the definition of "pornography" teachers, librarians and private citizens will be targeted and criminalized based on ill-defined terms.
- *Public schools will be stretched even thinner, expanding wealth and knowledge gaps.
- *Abortion will be outlawed at the federal level with few or no "exceptions"

2. DISMANTLE THE ADMINISTRATIVE STATE AND RETURN SELF-GOVERNANCE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The second promise would reduce the size of the federal government through:

*restoring "constitutional authority" over the federal budget process

*removing rulemaking power from agencies (EPA, DHS, DoE, DoJ, State Department, etc.)

*encouraging "warfighting" as the sole mission of the military ignoring the interests of minority groups

WHAT DOES "DISMANTLE THE ADMINISTRATIVE STATE" MEAN IN PRACTICE?

- *Mass layoffs of tenured government professionals who have been devoted to public service
- *Centralization of power to a small, highly-politicized group of presidential appointees
- *Militarization of government to do the bidding of the president is a direct connection to a fully authoritarian state

Department of Health and Human Services

GOAL #1: PROTECTING LIFE, CONSCIENCE, AND BODILY INTEGRITY

- *The secretary should pursue a robust agenda to protect the fundamental right to life, protect conscience rights, and uphold bodily integrity, rooted in biological realities, not ideology.
- *Abortion and euthanasia are not healthcare.
- *Radical actors inside, and outside of the government are promoting harmful identity politics that replaces biological sex with subjective notions of gender identity. This is a destructive dogma.
- *This destructive dogma in the guise of equity threatens America's fundamental liberties as well as the health and well-being of children and adults alike.
- *The next secretary must ensure that HHS programs, protect children's minds and bodies, and that HHS programs respect parents basic right to direct the upbringing, education, and care of their children.

Department of Health and Human Services DISMANTLING HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

GOAL #3: PROMOTING STABLE AND FLOURISHING, MARRIED FAMILIES

"Families comprised of a married mother, father, and their children are the foundation of a well-ordered nation and healthy society. Unfortunately, family policies and programs under President Biden's HHS are fraught with agenda items focusing on "LGBTQ+ equity", subsidizing singlemotherhood, disincentivizing work, and penalizing marriage. These policies should be repealed and replaced by policies that support the formation of stable, married, nuclear families."

Department of Health and Human Services DISMANTLING HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

GOAL #3: PROMOTING STABLE AND FLOURISHING, MARRIED FAMILIES

"In the context of current and emerging reproductive technologies, HHS policies should never place the desires of adults over the right of children to be raised by the biological fathers and mothers who conceive them. In cases involving biological parents who are found by a court to be unfit because of abuse or neglect, the process of adoption should be speedy, certain, and supported generously by HHS."

Note: This is basically saying that gay people should not be able to adopt or use surrogacy or in vitro fertilization.

Now, what?

Thank you to:

@AMERICANSFORDEMOCRACY @AWAKENING_THROUGH_PARENTHOOD
@CATMOMSFORMINNESOTA @COLORADOFORDEMOCRACY
@MOMSFORARIZONA @MOMSFORIOWA @MOMSFORNC @MOMSFOROKLAHOMA
@MOMSFORTENNESSEE @OURSCHOOLSUSA @PAMOMS4CHANGE
@YOURNEIGHBORSFORCHANGE

For more info on education, follow:

@OURSCHOOLSUSA

More info and Project 2025 text:

https://momsforiowa.info/project-2025-breakdown



IADC PRESENTATION SHERVIN AAZAMI

IJ ACTION MISSION



Initiate Justice Action mobilizes the power of people impacted by incarceration to advance progressive policies in California

Initiate Justice Action's Work

1. Policy Advocacy

- Introduce/support legislation expanding criminal justice reform
- Lobby against bad bills expanding mass incarceration
- Support state budgets that divest from prisons and invest in community

2. Power Building

- Build the political power of system impacted people
- Help train and inform impacted people to engage in the political process

3. Civic Engagement

Increase voter registration/participation among system impacted people

4. Endorsements

Endorse and support candidates with firm commitments to criminal justice reform



POWER IN MEMBERSHIP



IJ Action Membership Structure

Members

Active Supportive

Complete Application & Pay annual dues



Complete New Member Orientation



Commit to attending monthly General Meetings





Sign up for at least one action committee



Sign Membership Pledge Form



Complete Application & Pay Annual Dues



Participate in meetings & support committees when possible



IJ Action facilitated a Civic Engagement Workshop at WestCare in Bakersfield.

IJ Action also advocated for The Inclusive Democracy Act in Washington DC.







IJ Action Staff Tabled At Multiple Resource Fairs Sponsored by Project Rebound: CSU- Bakersfield / CSU- Northridge, and at the New Way of Life Resource Fair at LA Trade Tech College









This year, IJ Action has been on the record opposing or supporting 80 different public safety bills



April 4, 2024

The Honorable Kevin McCarty Chair, Assembly Public Safety Committee 1020 N Street, Room 111 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 3231 (Villapudua) - OPPOSE

Dear Chair McCarty,

On behalf of Initiate Justice Action (IJ Action), I write in strong opposition to AB 3231 by Assemblymember Villapudua, which would expand Penal Code Section 667.5, to include felony hate crimes as a violent felony. Founded and led by Californians directly harmed by the prison system, IJ Action mobilizes the collective power of impacted people to advance progressive policies.

Hate crimes are a scourge on our democracy and the civil freedoms we cherish as Americans. We share in the author's anger about the rising tide of hate crimes in our state and nationwide, which have in recent months and years disproportionately impacted the transgender community, Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities, Palestinian and Arab Muslim communities, and Jewish Communities.



April 1, 2024

Assemblymember Wendy Carrillo P.O. Box 942849 Sacramento, CA 94249-0052

RE: AB 1990 - Opposition

Dear Assemblymember Carrillo,

On behalf of Initiate Justice Action (IJ Action), I write in strong opposition to your bill, AB 1990, which would allow a police officer to, without a warrant, arrest a person for shoplifting not committed in the officer's presence if the officer has "reasonable cause" to believe that the person has committed shoplifting. This bill would also prohibit the use of citations in lieu of custodial arrest for individuals arrested for shoplifting regardless of the circumstances.

Founded and led by Californians directly harmed by the prison system, IJ Action mobilizes the collective power of impacted people to advance progressive policies. This bill harkens back to the darkest days of the tough-on-crime era, and is reminiscent of dangerous policies such as "stop-and-frisk" and other racist, anti-poor practices used by law enforcement to terrorize Black and brown



April 3, 2024

The Honorable Kevin McCarty Chair, Assembly Public Safety Committee 1020 N Street, Room 111 Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2790 (Pacheco) - OPPOSE

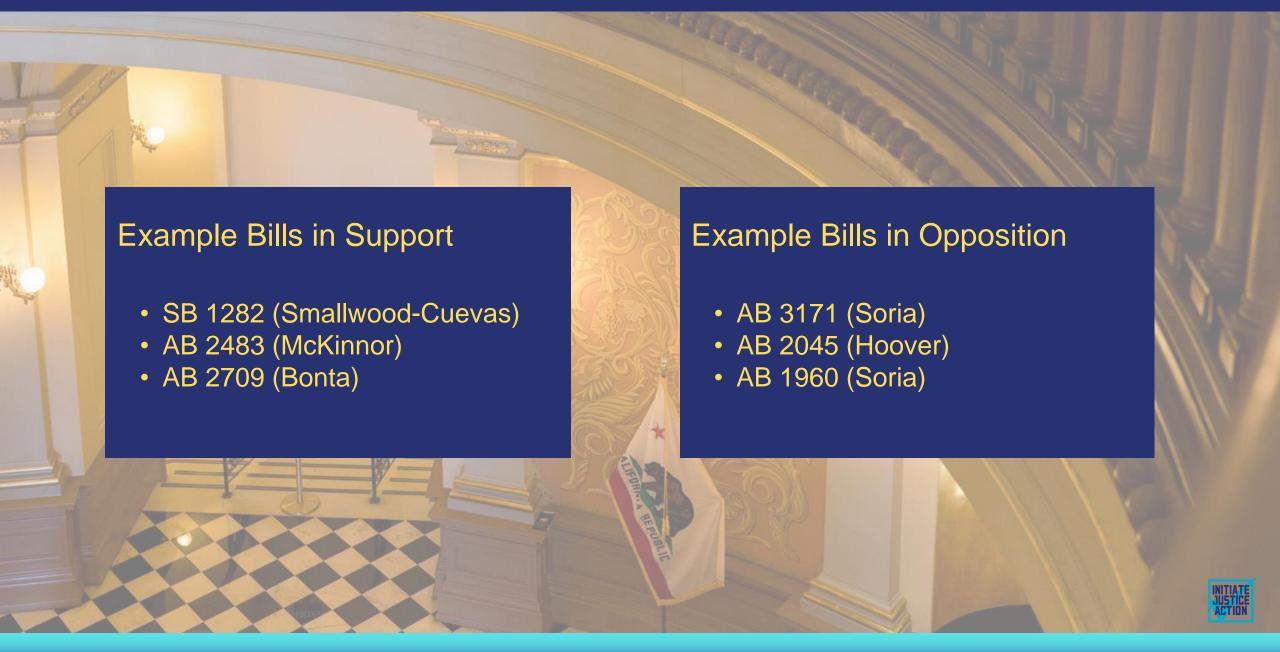
Dear Chair McCarty,

On behalf of Initiate Justice Action (IJ Action), I submit this letter in strong opposition to AB 2790 by Assemblymember Pacheco, which would expand Penal Code Section 490.4 to include theft of specific life-saving items like baby formula and blood glucose test strips under the definition "organized retail theft." This cruel and unjust bill targets young families and individuals diagnosed with diabetes during a time when Californians are facing steep economic challenges. Founded and led by Californians directly harmed by the prison system, IJ Action mobilizes the collective power of impacted people to advance progressive policies.

AB 2790 would allow law enforcement to charge someone with organized retail theft for <u>stealing any amount</u> of baby formula, baby food, blood glucose test strips, or over-the-counter medications. Currently, in order to be charged pursuant to Section 4904, the appreciated value of items stolen must exceed \$950 and the









- Become an IJ Action Member!
 - Active Members can vote on endorsements for the November 5th General Election
- Active Members
 - IJA Candidate Endorsements Vote
 - May 23rd, 2024, 6:30 pm
- Juneteenth Celebration & Fundraiser
 - "Democracy Needs Everyone"
 - Saturday, June 15th, from 6-8 pm
 - Reseda, Ca
- RSVP for the <u>Next General Meeting!</u>
 - Tuesday, June 11th, 2024
 - https://bit.ly/IJAGeneral



ENVIRONMENT – CLIMATE CHANGE by: Sara Aminzadeh



ENVIRONMENT: Most Aggressive Climate Action in American History

The Inflation Reduction Act, has created 271,713 new clean energy jobs and unleashed \$352 billion in investments

Rejoined the Paris Agreement on day one to reassert the United States global leadership to combat the climate crisis

America is now positioned to achieve its climate goals of cutting our emissions in half by 2030 (40% below 2005 levels) and net-zero by 2050

Established the American Climate Corps, nearly 50 thousand young people will be trained in clean energy conservation and climate resilience skills

Protected more lands and waters than any President since J.F.K (over 26M acres)

Investing in clean and equitable solutions in disadvantaged communities

Canceled remaining oil and gas leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Established \$7 billion in grants to fund cost-saving solar energy for low-income communities

Initiated new training programs for manufacturing workers and clean energy jobs





BIDEN-HARRIS DELIVER!

ENVIRONMENT: Most Aggressive Climate Action in American History

Jump started the American offshore wind industry and convened the nation's first federal-state offshore wind partnership, enough to power 4 million homes

Awarded more than \$1 billion to initiate cleanup and clear the backlog of 49 previously unfunded Superfund sites, over \$250 million to clean up hundreds of contaminated brownfield sites and \$725 million for abandoned mine lands

Restored protections for Bears Ears, Grand Staircase-Escalante, and Northeast Canyons and Seamounts National Monuments and designated Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument to conserve our lands and waters, honor our nation's veterans, protect Tribal cultural resources, and support jobs and America's outdoor recreation economy

Accelerated adoption of electric vehicles by reducing costs for families, jumpstarted the first national EV charging network, and made historic investments into EV batteries and materials

Set new policies to reduce super pollutants like HFCs, paused new methane gas (LNG) export terminals to protect communities and reduce emissions fueling climate change

Supercharged U.S. clean energy manufacturing







MOBILIZE & ORGANIZE

Register to become an IADC member / Donate

IranianDems.org

2. Share the link the **Endorsement Application** with candidates in California *IranianDems.org/endorsement-process*

3. Register/Update **Voter Registration** for **November 5**th election registertovote.ca.gov

4. Follow us on Social Media (FB, IG, X), share the **Election Talking Points** with others

@IranianDems

5. **Join** IADC standing committees, and **take action** supporting bills we highlighted send a letter to your rep. on our website



CANDIDATE'S SPOTLIGHT

- IRANIAN AMERICAN CANDIDATES
- DNC CANDIDATES

EACH PERSON HAS 1 MINUTE



Thank you for joining

Reminder, we have less than 6 months to the presidential election

